



EAST HERTFORDSHIRE COMBINED DISTRICTS

Hertford (M.B.)

Hoddesdon (U.D.)

Braughing (R.D.)

Sawbridgeworth (U.D.)

Hertford (R.D.)

Ware (U.D.)

Ware (R.D.)

Annual Report

ON

The Health of the Area

For the Year

1954



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EAST HERTS COMBINED DISTRICTS

PREFACE AND GENERAL REMARKS

This is my sixth Annual Report on the Health of the East Hertfordshire Combined Sanitary Districts. Section "A" of the Report deals with general matters affecting all the Districts, and the statistics therein have been drawn up to facilitate comparison between the Districts. Section "B" reports on the Sanitary Circumstances of the Districts. Apart from a few remarks about infectious diseases, the material in this latter section has been supplied by the Sanitary Inspectors and, where appropriate, by other departments.

Staff

Deputy (Part-time) Medical Officer

Dr. C. M. Billington retired in September, 1954. He was appointed part-time Medical Officer of Health on October 27th, 1947, following the departure to another appointment of Dr. A. D. Whitelaw. Dr. Billington held office until I was appointed to the full-time post of Medical Officer of Health, on October 1st, 1948. He then agreed to act as part-time Deputy M.O.H. during my absence from East Herts on business or vacation, and this very satisfactory arrangement continued until he left East Hertfordshire in September, 1954.

At the time of writing this Report, I am pleased to state that Dr. P. de B. Turtle, Medical Officer to Haileybury and Imperial Service College, Hertford, in succession to Dr. Billington, has agreed to act in a like capacity to his predecessor, and has accepted appointment as Deputy (Part-time) Medical Officer of Health to the Combined Districts.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors

Five out of seven of the Combined Sanitary Districts employ an Additional Sanitary Inspector, to assist the Senior Sanitary Inspector in each case. Because of an extra amount of work envisaged by a proposed housing survey, and the work which it will entail afterwards, Hertford Rural District Council appointed a second Additional Sanitary Inspector on October 1st, 1954.

Vital Statistics

The population of the Combined Districts increased by 462 persons to a total of 72,610 people. The increase is made up of an excess of births over deaths amounting to 372, and an influx of 90 people from outside the District.

The birth and death rates compare favourably with the previous year, and with the rest of the country; Sawbridgeworth having the lowest death rate for the Combined Districts.

Infant Mortality

Eighteen infants died under the age of one year. Six died within 16 hours of birth, four died within five days, one died at three weeks, four died before reaching the fourth month, and the remaining three died before reaching the age of 12 months.

Six of the deaths arose from conditions which are inevitably fatal; four were due to prematurity, and two more arose from congenital defects. Six infants died of causes which might have been avoidable.

Infectious Diseases

Winter Epidemics—Influenza

In accordance with a Ministry request arrangements were made in the winter of 1953–54, and again in the same period 1954–55, for three general medical practitioners in the Area to act as “spotters” on the look-out for an undue prevalence of influenza. No epidemic was reported in 1953–54, and up till December, 1954, an epidemic which was beginning elsewhere in the country had not reached East Hertfordshire.

Gastro-Enteritis of Unknown Cause

As in former years a number of general medical practitioners experienced large numbers of cases of diarrhoea with or without vomiting. Some of these were provisionally notified as Dysentery, or as Suspected Food Poisoning. Detailed investigations failed to give any clue as to the cause of the illness. The largest single outbreak occurred at The Hadhams, in the Braughing Rural District, in February. Nearly 90 people were taken ill with vomiting within the space of two days. Food poisoning was suspected, but in spite of extensive enquiries, and the collection of medical specimens from patients, and numerous samples of food, milk, and water, all of which were examined at the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory, there were no positive bacteriological findings. Details are given in the Braughing Rural District Report.

Infective Jaundice

This disease, also known as Catarrhal Jaundice, is notifiable in East Hertfordshire, and there are usually several cases on hand in the District. One of the difficulties in trying to control this disease is the very long period which elapses between catching the disease and knowing you've got it. The average period in this part of the world is about four weeks, but longer periods up to six weeks have been recorded elsewhere.

Tuberculosis—Visit of Mass X-Ray Unit

A Mass Radiography Unit visited Hertford, Ware and Sawbridgeworth, in July, 1954. The survey included residential schools, factories, and sessions for the general public. A total of 6,073 persons were X-rayed, and 189 were re-examined on large films. Only five cases of active lung tuberculosis were found, but a further 45 persons had inactive lung tuberculosis.

Food Poisoning

Eight cases of Food Poisoning were recorded. Although this is a reduction of 18 over the 1953 figure, it must be remembered that in the country as a whole the number of incidents of food poisoning was higher by 50 per cent. in 1953 than in 1952.

Slaughterhouses

Arising from a recommendation of the Ministry of Food, the various Councils in East Herts held consultations, prior to the end of meat rationing and the decontrol of slaughtering and livestock, with representatives of the Meat Trade, and of Farmers. This was to ascertain their probable requirements regarding the provision of slaughterhouses.

Slaughterhouses have been licensed in Hertford Rural, Ware Urban, Ware Rural, Hoddesdon Urban, and Braughing Rural Districts respectively. The changeover to private trading occurred smoothly. There are no licensed slaughterhouses in Hertford Borough or in Sawbridgeworth Urban District.

Social Services

Citizens' Advice Bureau

A Citizens' Advice Bureau was opened in Hoddesdon in November, 1953, and continues to function actively. It is run in collaboration with the Central Council of Social Service, and receives a grant of money from the Hoddesdon Urban District Council. It dealt with about 200 problems, many of them of a personal nature, during its first year, and the Bureau is giving a most useful service to the community.

The Welfare of Old People

Clubs for old people exist in all the Districts of East Herts. Many of these have a Visiting Committee, and some provide additional services such as chiropody. The club in Ware recently started a meals service.

Hoddesdon has a very active Committee which runs an "Over 60's Club," a "Visiting Committee" and a "Meals Service." The Committee was formed in 1949, but the "Over 60's Club" began before then.

The Meals Service at Hoddesdon provided 5,916 hot meals to housebound old people during the year ended March, 1955. It is to the credit of the Hoddesdon Old People's Welfare Committee that the Meals Service continues to be run entirely by voluntary effort. No financial assistance has ever been asked for or been given by the County Council Welfare Committee, and in this respect this Meals Service is believed to be unique in the country.

I have observed during the last few years that where good facilities exist for the welfare of old people the number of problems involving old people, which are reported to the public health department for advice or assistance, is fewer than where less efficient welfare arrangements exist.

These welfare services give the old folk an interest in life. They look forward to the occasional Visitor or to the receipt of a hot meal. If they have cause to grumble about the services provided, as sometimes happens, at least it shows they are taking an active interest in life. It makes a topic of conversation, and acts like a tonic to their vitality. These are factors which help to keep old people happy in the evening of their lives. Happy people are less likely to fall ill, so in the long run the hours of work which voluntary effort puts into the welfare of the aged will help to keep hospital beds empty. Thus to look after the welfare and happiness of old people indirectly benefits the whole community.

Temporary Duties of M.O.H.

Upon the request of the Hertfordshire County Council and with the sanction of the East Herts Combined Sanitary Districts, I undertook the additional duties of Acting Medical Officer of Health to the Bishop's Stortford Urban District, and Temporary Assistant County Medical Officer for Schools, for a period of 14 weeks from August, 1954, to November, 1954. During this period I attended 50 school or clinic sessions, including official visits to Bishop's Stortford Council, and 713 school children were medically examined or immunised against Diphtheria.

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to all those who have been of assistance to me during the year, and in particular to the Sanitary Inspectors and staffs of the Public Health Departments.

JOHN WILDMAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

The Castle,
Hertford.
June, 1955.

EAST HERTS COMBINED DISTRICTS

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

JOHN H. WILDMAN, M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.), D.P.H.
 Central Office: The Castle, Hertford
 (Office Telephone: Hertford 2204)
 (Private Telephone: Hoddesdon 2908)

Deputy (Part-time) Medical Officer of Health

CHARLES M. BILLINGTON, M.D., Ch.B.(Cantab.), M.R.C.S.(Eng.),
 L.R.C.P.(Lond.)
(Dr. Billington retired in September, 1954)

SANITARY INSPECTORS

Hertford Municipal Borough

The Castle, Hertford (Tel.: Hertford 2204)	<i>Sanitary Inspector</i> B. W. PECK	(2)
	<i>Pupil Assistant</i> J. E. STACEY	

Hoddesdon Urban District

Council Offices, High Street, Hoddesdon (Tel.: Hoddesdon 3061)	<i>Senior Sanitary Inspector (and Housing Manager)</i> W. N. DAVID	(1), (3) and (4)
	<i>Additional Sanitary Inspector</i> W. F. FORREST	(2) and (3)

Sawbridgeworth Urban District

Council Offices, The Forebury, Sawbridgeworth, Herts (Tel.: Sawbridgeworth 2161)	<i>Sanitary Inspector (and Surveyor)</i> C. A. FORD	(2), (3) and (4)
---	--	------------------

Ware Urban District

The Priory, Ware, Herts (Tel.: Ware 425)	<i>Senior Sanitary Inspector</i> C. J. LUCAS	(2), (3) and (4)
	<i>Additional Sanitary Inspector</i> J. C. CHAPMAN	(2) and (5)

Braughing Rural District

Bridgefoot House, Buntingford, Herts (Tel.: Buntingford 315)	<i>Senior Sanitary Inspector (and Surveyor)</i> E. E. WATERIDGE	(1)
	<i>Sanitary Inspector (and Asst. Surveyor)</i> G. C. SMITH	(2) and (3)

For interpretation of figures in brackets see next page.

Hertford Rural District

Council Offices,
 "Wallfields,"
 Peg's Lane,
 Hertford.
 (Tel.: Hertford 3007)

Senior Sanitary Inspector (and Surveyor)
 H. E. GILBY (2) and (3)
Additional Sanitary Inspectors
 C. W. PITMAN (2) and (3)
 D. R. HOWE (2) and (3)
 (Appointed October, 1954)

Ware Rural District

97 New Road,
 Ware, Herts.
 (Tel.: Ware 492)

Senior Sanitary Inspector (and Surveyor)
 A. D. G. GOOLD (2), (3) and (4)
Additional Sanitary Inspector
 P. G. ALLISON (2)

INDEX TO FIGURES IN BRACKETS

- (1) Sanitary Inspector's Certificate.
- (2) Sanitary Inspector's Certificate (R.S.I. and S.I.E.J. Board).
- (3) Certificate for Inspectors of Meat and other Foods.
- (4) Smoke Inspector's Certificate.
- (5) Diploma in Hygiene (Royal Inst. Public Health and Hygiene).

COMMITTEES**CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS****Hertford Municipal Borough**

Public Health and Town Planning Committee.

Hoddesdon Urban District

Public Health Committee.

Sawbridgeworth Urban District

Highways, Public Health, Allotments and Lighting Committee.

Ware Urban District

Public Health and Public Works Committee.

Braughing Rural District

Public Health and Housing Committee.

Hertford Rural District

General Purposes Committee.

Ware Rural District

Housing, Town Planning and Public Health Committee.

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1954

Table 1

	Hertford M.B.	Hoddesdon U.D.	Sawbridge- worth U.D.	Ware U.D.	Braughing R.D.	Hertford R.D.	Ware R.D.	TOTAL E.H.C.D.
Population								
ESTIMATED (MID-YEAR) POPULATION ...								
Natural increase or decrease	14,490	14,780	3,950	8,620	10,450	8,760	11,560	72,610
Migration in or out	+ 103	+ 105	+ 26	- 24	+ 66	+ 56	+ 40	+ 372
Total increase or decrease	- 73	+ 115	+ 23	+ 123	- 36	- 22	- 40	+ 90
	+ 30	+ 220	+ 49	+ 99	+ 30	+ 34	0	+ 462
General Statistics								
AREA IN ACRES	3,882	4,423	2,678	1,343	45,570	31,746	29,102	118,744
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES AT END OF 1954 (according to Rate Books)	3,975	4,281	1,291	2,497	3,346	2,735	3,230	21,355
Number of houses per acre ...	1.02	0.96	0.48	1.86	0.07	0.09	0.11	0.18
Number of persons per acre ...	3.7	3.3	1.5	6.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.6
Number of persons per house ...	3.6	3.5	3.1	3.5	3.1	3.2	3.6	3.4
RATEABLE VALUE OF DISTRICT ...	£115,807	£106,849	£25,497	£57,071	£15,821	£45,535	£168	£71,034
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	445	430	96	231	199	281		

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1954 Table 2

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STATISTICS

	Hertford M.B.	Hoddesdon U.D.	Sawbridge- worth U.D.	Ware U.D.	Braughton R.D.	Hertford R.D.	Ware R.D.	TOTAL E.H.C.D.
Births								
STANDARDISED BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 population)								
... Area Comparability Factor	16.19 0.99	17.15 1.04	15.52 1.07	16.14 1.07	16.55 1.03	16.02 1.01	13.53 1.03	16.02 1.03
NUMBER OF BIRTHS: TOTAL	237	244	59	130	168	139	152	1,129
Male	112	114	30	68	92	67	68	551
Female	125	130	29	62	76	72	84	578
Legitimate	228	235	58	122	155	134	147	1,079
Illegitimate	9	9	1	8	13	5	5	50
Deaths								
STANDARDISED DEATH RATE (per 1,000 population)								
... Area Comparability Factor	8.88 0.96	9.12 0.97	7.27 0.87	13.76 0.77	8.29 0.85	9.10 0.96	8.43 0.87	9.38 0.90
NUMBER OF DEATHS: TOTAL	134	139	33	154	102	83	112	757
Male	74	79	16	84	42	49	72	416
Female	60	60	17	70	60	34	40	341
DEATHS OF INFANTS:								
Under four weeks of age	2	5	2	0	1	1	2	13
Four weeks to one year of age	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	5
TOTAL under one year of age	3	6	2	0	2	2	3	18
Still Births	1	3	2	2	3	6	3	20
INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 Related Live Births)	12.7	24.9	35.0	0.0	12.4	15.0	20.4	16.2

Comparison with the Rates for England and Wales
 Birth Rate 15.2. Death Rate 11.3. Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Related Live Births) 25.5.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—GENERAL STATISTICS 1954

Incidence

	Hertford M.B.	Hoddesdon U.D.	Sawbridge- worth U.D.	Ware U.D.	Braughton R.D.	Hertford R.D.	Ware R.D.	TOTAL East Herts
Scarlet Fever	6	12	2	4	7	32
Whooping Cough	25	38	48	31	6	167
Poliomyelitis (Acute):								
Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	1
Non-Paralytic	—	1	—	—	—	1
Measles	7	2	1	—	—	25
Diphtheria	—	—	—	2	—	0
Acute Primary Pneumonia	8	—	1	2	8	33
Dysentery	7	—	—	—	—	0
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	0
Encephalitis (Acute):								
Infective	—	—	—	—	—	0
Post-Infectious	—	—	—	—	—	0
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	0
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	0
Erysipelas	—	—	—	1	—	5
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	2
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	8
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	1	—	—	5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	0
Infective Jaundice	—	—	5	—	—	16
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1954

Cases on Register at 1st January, 1954										Cases added to Register during 1954										Cases removed from Register during 1954										Cases remaining on Register at 31st Dec., 1954			
Cases on Register at 1st January, 1954					Cases restored to Register					Inward Transfers					Deaths					Outward Transfers					Patients Cured					Increase or decrease over 1953			
	P	NP	Tu.	P	P	NP	Tu.	P	NP	Tu.	P	NP	Tu.	P	NP	Tu.	P	NP	Tu.	P	NP	Tu.	P	NP	Tu.								
Hertford M.B.	M.	37	10	8	-	12	-	4	-	5	2	-	3	-	7	1	-	43	10	95	13	95	10	95	+ 6								
	F.	27	15	4	-	-	-	Nil	1	-	-	-	2	3	1	-	1	-	2	29	13												
Hoddesdon U.D.	M.	37	10	84	2	-	4	-	1	2	-	3	-	3	2	1	5	1	-	3	38	9	81	8	81	8	- 3						
	F.	27	10	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	3	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	26													
Sawbridgeworth U.D.	M.	5	-	20	3	-	4	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	Nil	-	-	Nil	-	-	Nil	-	Nil	-	8	-	24	+ 4			
	F.	14	1	-	1	-	-	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1						
Ware U.D.	M.	29	6	63	6	1	13	-	-	Nil	2	-	4	-	4	2	-	5	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	31	7	70	11	+ 7			
	F.	16	12	-	5	1	-	-	Nil	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-						
Braughton R.D.	M.	27	10	74	5	-	6	-	-	Nil	4	-	7	-	7	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	2	35	8	82	+ 8			
	F.	24	13	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	2	26	13					
Hertford R.D.	M.	19	6	55	1	-	-	Nil	3	-	5	-	6	-	6	-	7	1	-	4	1	-	1	-	1	16	6	50	- 5				
	F.	22	8	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	1	-	2	1	-	2	1	21	7							
Ware R.D.	M.	23	13	79	1	-	4	-	-	Nil	23	-	32	-	9	-	18	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	37	12	95	19	+ 16			
	F.	24	19	-	3	-	-	Nil	9	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	Nil	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	19						
Total East Herts C.D.	M.	177	55	464	26	1	44	-	-	39	-	1	57	7	-	10	23	2	45	4	2	14	4	4	4	208	52	497	72				
	F.	154	78	-	16	1	-	1	-	18	-	3	-	3	-	17	3	-	17	3	-	165	4	4	4	165	72						

ABBREVIATIONS USED

M—Male. F—Female. P—Pulmonary. NP—Non-Pulmonary. Tu.—Total. M.B.—Municipal Borough. U.D.—Urban District.
 R.D.—Rural District. C.D.—Combined Districts.

HOUSING PROGRESS—TABLE 1—1954

NEW HOUSING		Hertford M.B.	Hoddesdon U.D.	Sawbridgeworth U.D.	Ware U.D.	Braughton R.D.	Hertford R.D.	Ware R.D.
	Since 1954	During 1954	Since 1945	During 1954	Since 1945	During 1954	Since 1945	Since 1945
By PRIVATE ENTERPRISE								
New dwellings erected	...	29	90	89	273	21	61	22
War-destroyed dwellings rebuilt	...	—	21	—	5	—	1	—
Repairs to war-damaged houses	...	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Conversions or adaptations in terms of family units	...	1	35	—	23	—	1	—

By LOCAL SANITARY AUTHORITY								
New dwellings erected	...	129	636	51	541	33	160	27
Conversions or adaptations in terms of family units	...	—	6	—	8	—	78	—
Temporary prefabricated bungalows	...	—	—	50	—	38	10	—

By OTHER AUTHORITIES (County Council, Police, Military, etc.)								
Council Houses	...	6	32	—	8	—	3	—
Temporary prefabricated bungalows	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sundries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Requisitioned dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

TOTAL PROPERTIES CONTROLLED BY THE LOCAL SANITARY AUTHORITIES ON 31ST DEC., 1954								
Properties provided under the various Housing Acts:								
Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1,274	906	264	781	768	638	846	—
	50	38	10	13	—	—	—	—
	40	22	22	17	21	1	6	6
	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—

HOUSING PROGRESS—TABLE 2—1954

The undermentioned information is given in accordance with Article 31 of the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925,
as amended by the Housing Act, 1936.

OLD HOUSING	Hertford M.B.	Hoddesdon U.D.	Sawbridge- worth U.D.	Ware U.D.	Braughing R.D.	Hertford R.D.	Ware R.D.
1. The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation	9	112	1	12	67	5	12
2. The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	2	56	12	8	31	—	36
3. The number of representations made to the Local Authority with the view to:—							
(a) The serving of notices requiring the execution of works	—	4	—	2	6	—	14
(b) The making of demolition or closing orders ...	2	5	—	1	—	—	5
4. The number of notices served requiring the execution of works	—	4	—	—	6	—	12
5. The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	—	1	—	—	—	—	12
6. The number of demolition or closing orders made ...	—	3	—	—	—	—	4
7. The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (3) of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	—	1	—	—	—	5	—
8. The number of houses demolished	—	3	9	—	—	2	1

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

County Council Health Services

The following County Council Services under the National Health Service Act, 1946, are available in the District.

Further details can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Hertford.

Home Nursing, Midwifery, Health Visiting and Welfare Centres

District Nurse/Midwives work at 14 localities in the East Herts Combined Sanitary Districts.

These Nurses also carry out Health Visiting and School Nursing except at Hertford, Hoddesdon and Ware, where there are whole-time Health Visitor/School Nurscs.

Twenty-five Welfare Centres have also been established in the same area.

Vaccinations, Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisations

Medical Officers at Welfare Centres will vaccinate or immunise any babies at the request of parents. Family Doctors will also provide this prophylaxis free of charge.

Home and Domestic Help

Applications for this Service should be addressed to the Local Organiser at 27 Bull Plain, Hertford (Tel.: Hertford 3232), and 25a Portland Road, Bishop's Stortford (Tel.: Bishop's Stortford 332). A charge may be made for this Service in accordance with the County Council's assessment scale.

Care and After-Care

Applications for recuperative holidays, if recommended by the Medical Attendant, should be made to the County Medical Officer.

Equipment can be issued on loan to patients being nursed at home. Loan Depots have been established at Bishop's Stortford, Braughing, Buntingford, Hertford, Great Hornead, Hoddesdon, Much Hadham, Standon, Stanstead Abbotts and Ware.

A charge may be made for both these Services.

Ambulance Services

There are Ambulance Stations at Hertford (Tel.: Hertford 2222), Bishop's Stortford (Tel.: Bishop's Stortford 1101), Hoddesdon (Tel.: Hoddesdon 3021) and Ware (Tel.: Ware 441).

Except in emergency an Ambulance should be ordered by a Medical Practitioner.

Day Nurseries

There are only two day nurseries in the area, at 10 Queen's Road, Hertford, and at Bowling Road, Ware.

Mental Health

Arrangements for mental treatment on the recommendation of a General Practitioner are made by the Duly Authorised Officer, Mr. W. T. Medhurst, Collett Road, Ware (Tel.: Ware 541).

Help in respect of Mentally Defective persons can be obtained by application to the County Medical Officer.

An Occupation Centre for defective children has been established in Hertford.

Hospital Services

These are provided by the Hertford Group of Hospitals within the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

<i>Hospitals within the Group</i>					<i>Beds in Use</i>
Bishop's Stortford and District Hospital	...	...	...	...	68
East Herts Hospital, Hertford	...	...	...	...	33
Eden Cottage Hospital, Hatfield Broad Oak	...	...	...	...	7
Haymeads Hospital, Bishop's Stortford	...	...	...	...	386†
Hertford County Hospital	...	...	...	...	175
Ware Park Hospital, Ware	...	...	...	...	129
Western House, Ware (by Agency arrangements with the Hertfordshire County Council)	...	...	...	...	124

† Also 70 beds available to Herts C.C., for use under the National Assistance Act, 1948 (Part III).

Clinics

Hoddesdon Physiotherapy and Orthopaedic Clinic, Rye Road, Hoddesdon.

Chest Clinic, East Herts Hospital, Hertford.

Chest Clinic, Haymeads Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

Chest Clinic (Children), Bull Plain, Hertford.

Ante-Natal Clinic, Bull Plain, Hertford.

Ante-Natal Clinic, Portland Road, Bishop's Stortford.

School Children's Ophthalmic Clinic, Bridgefoot House, Buntingford.

School Children's Ophthalmic Clinic, Parliament Square, Hertford.

School Children's Ophthalmic Clinic, Haymeads Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

General Practitioner Medical Services

There are approximately 38 doctors in General Practice who reside in the East Herts Area. In addition, over one dozen medical practitioners resident in adjoining County Districts also carry out general medical practice in this area.

Dental Services

Twelve dentists are in practice in the East Herts Combined Districts: Hertford (8), Hoddesdon (2), Ware (1), Buntingford (1). The Area is also served by Dentists living in towns of adjoining Districts outside East Herts Combined Districts.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1954

Line No.	Causes of Death	Hertford M.B.			Hoddesdon U.D.			Sawbridgeworth U.D.			Ware U.D.			Braughing R.D.			Hertford R.D.			Ware R.D.			Line No.
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	(a)	
1	All Causes ...	74	60	79	60	16	17	84	70	42	60	49	34	72	40	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	
2	Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	...	...	2	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
3	Tuberculosis, other ...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
4	Syphilitic disease ...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
5	Diphtheria ...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
6	Whooping Cough ...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
7	Meningococcal infections ...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
8	Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
9	Measles ...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
10	Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	...	...	3	4	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	10
11	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	...	...	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	11
12	" lung, bronchus ...	...	...	0	4	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
13	" breast ...	...	...	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
14	" uterus ...	...	...	0	1	0	3	8	10	6	0	2	10	4	7	8	6	3	6	0	0	14
15	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	...	...	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
16	Leukæmia, aleukæmia ...	...	...	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
17	Diabetes ...	...	...	7	9	10	4	4	2	15	13	9	7	4	11	3	7	4	11	3	3	17
18	Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	...	...	21	9	16	5	4	2	9	9	7	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
19	Coronary disease, angina ...	...	...	1	0	0	1	0	0	5	5	0	5	12	5	3	3	7	0	2	0	19
20	Hypertension with heart disease ...	...	...	9	6	11	15	1	1	4	15	12	6	2	0	0	3	7	9	6	0	20
21	Other heart disease ...	...	...	3	3	0	2	0	2	5	6	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	21
22	Other circulatory disease ...	...	...	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
23	Influenza ...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
24	Pneumonia ...	...	...	3	2	2	1	1	0	1	4	1	0	1	2	0	1	4	0	0	1	24
25	Bronchitis ...	...	...	1	2	5	3	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	25
26	Other diseases of respiratory system ...	...	...	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26
27	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	...	...	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27
28	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	...	...	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28
29	Nephritis and nephrosis ...	...	...	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
30	Hyperplasia of prostate ...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30
31	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	...	...	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31
32	Congenital malformations ...	...	...	8	5	12	7	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32
33	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	...	...	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33
34	Motor vehicle accidents ...	...	...	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34
35	All other accidents ...	...	...	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35
36	Suicide ...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36
	Homicide and operations of war ...	...	...																		
	Still Births ...	...	...																		
	Deaths of infants under four weeks of age ...	...	...																		
	" , " , four weeks to one year of age ...	...	...																		

(a)

(b)

(c)

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Inspections of Factories during 1954

Copy of Information supplied
to the Ministry of Labour and
National Service on Form 572
(Revised)

Factories without Mechanical Power

Number on Register	... ...	21	12	3	12	17	10
Inspections ...	... ...	31	—	4	2	13	10
Written Notices ...	... ...	—	—	—	—	—	2
Occupier Prosecuted	... ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

Factories with Mechanical Power

Number on Register	... ...	103	101	17	75	40	43
Inspections ...	... ...	77	53	14	16	21	42
Written Notices ...	... ...	—	4	—	1	—	8
Occupier Prosecuted	... ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

Other Premises under the Act

(Electric Stations, Institutions, Sites
of Buildings operations and works of
engineering construction, but not
including Outworkers premises)

Number on Register	... ...	4	11	—	48	41	43
Inspections ...	... ...	14	4	—	16	21	42
Written Notices ...	... ...	—	—	—	—	—	8
Occupier Prosecuted	... ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

Outworkers

Copy of Information supplied
to the Ministry of Labour and
National Service on Form 572
(Revised)

Wearing Apparel:

Making, etc.	... ...	—	Hoddesdon U.D.	Sawbridge- worth U.D.	Ware U.D.	Braughing R.D.	Hertford R.D.	Ware R.D.
Cleaning and Washing	... ...	204	—	—	—	—	—	—
Box Making	... ...	24	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brush Making	... ...	—	—	24	—	—	—	—
Feather Sorting	... ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	—

Defects found in Factories during 1954

Copy of Information supplied to the Ministry of Labour and National Service on Form 572 (Revised)			Hertford M.B.	Hoddesdon U.D.	Sawbridge- worth U.D.	Ware U.D.	Braughton R.D.	Hertford R.D.	Ware R.D.
Want of Cleanliness:									
Found	...	...	3	-	1	-	-	-	6
Remedied	...	...	3	-	1	-	-	-	5
Overcrowding:									
Found	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Remedied	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature:									
Found	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Remedied	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation:									
Found	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Remedied	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective Drainage of Floors:									
Found	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Remedied	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences									
Insufficient:									
Found	...	...	1	-	1	-	-	-	3
Remedied	...	...	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Sanitary Conveniences									
Unsuitable or Defective:									
Found	...	...	2	1	-	1	3	-	4
Remedied	...	...	2	1	-	-	3	-	1
Sanitary Conveniences									
not separate for Sexes:									
Found	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Remedied	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Offences:									
Found	...	...	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
Remedied	...	...	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
Total Defects:									
Found	...	...	3	7	-	3	3	-	13
Remedied	...	...	3	7	-	1	3	-	9
Total Defects referred to H.M.									
Inspector	...	...	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total Defects referred by H.M.									
Inspector	...	...	1	2	-	1	-	-	5

SECTION B

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF EACH DISTRICT

BOROUGH OF HERTFORD

WATER SUPPLY

Source

All the water is obtained from boreholes (sunk in chalk) at Molewood, Wadesmill, Hartham and Port Hill.

Distribution

During the year the largest portion of the Sele Farm Housing Estate was completed. This estate comprises approximately 400 houses, flats and shops, and is supplied with water from the Council's mains.

Water is also supplied to a further 59 houses in a small private estate at Fordwich Hill.

Quality

Bacteriological

Samples of the mains water were submitted to bacteriological examination each month. *B. Coli* were absent from 100 ml. in each case.

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

No extensions to the main sewers in the Borough have been carried out during the year, but all available labour has been concentrated on maintaining the sewers in good condition, and in dealing with minor difficulties which have been experienced.

The Council's housing schemes, particularly on Sele Farm Estate, have developed, and this has resulted in further connections to the sewerage system.

Tests and analyses have been taken regularly at the activated sludge treatment works in Mead Lane, and generally the results have been satisfactory with an effluent up to the Ministry Standard Requirements.

Maintenance works at the Sewage Works have continued throughout the year, and the plant has functioned quite well.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The Corporation has continued to use the Fox Hole Farm refuse tip without difficulty or complaint, for the controlled tipping of domestic refuse.

The weekly collection of refuse has continued and has been augmented by a separate collection of paper, and the Corporation's policy of disposing of salvage at the best prices has been continued throughout the year.

A "Paxit" Dennis collecting vehicle has come into operation and has given very satisfactory results throughout the year, enabling the refuse collection to be carried out efficiently and hygienically.

PARTICULARS OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK during the year 1954

Total Number of Visits	...	...	...	...	...	1,699
Dwelling Houses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	216
Housing Re-inspection of Works in Progress, and Interviews with Owners and Builders	...	...	...	...	...	240
General Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	153
Complaints Investigated	...	...	...	...	...	195
Food Inspections and Control Visits	...	...	...	...	...	133
Visits re Cases of Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	24
" " " "	Disinfections	...	...	...	...	19
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	9
Rodent Control—Inspections and Visits	...	...	...	...	...	112
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	...	264
Registered and Licensed Premises Inspected						
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	106
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	16
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	45
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	9
Shops, Meat Stores, and other Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	128
Common Lodging House	...	...	...	...	...	11
Refuse Dumps	...	...	...	...	...	7
Other Premises	...	...	...	...	...	12

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

A considerable amount of work was done under the Public Health Acts during the year, many minor repairs and drainage works were dealt with informally, and the majority of complaints investigated and dealt with also required informal action under public health powers.

The periodic cleansing of the pail closets from Hertfordbury and from the more scattered premises within the Borough boundary was undertaken by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department.

As a result of nuisance and damage being done to Corporation property by pigeons, trapping was carried out by this department. The trap was sited on a flat roof of an adjacent County Council building and during the short period prior to extensive works of repair being carried out to the roof due to damage from the pigeons, a fair measure of success was achieved. Over half of the birds caught were found to be rung and these were taken over by a member of the Hertford Pigeon Club for disposal in accordance with the official procedure.

Canal boats—although the River Lee and the Canal are navigable within the Borough boundary, the waterways are not now used.

Occasional routine smoke observations continue to be taken but no action was necessary during the year.

A considerable amount of improvement works continue to be carried out to licensed premises in the town as a matter of policy of the Brewers. Following informal action, at two premises, improved urinal and sanitary accommodation was provided.

Vermin

Disinfestation was carried out at five premises during the year, D.D.T. or B.H.C. preparations being used in each case. At none of these five premises was the infestation other than light.

Infectious Diseases

In four cases during the year, following disinfection of premises, it was necessary to require the cleansing and redecorating of rooms. Four disinfections were also carried out on request following the death of aged persons and in each case, after receipt of formal application, a small quantity of bedding and clothing was removed and destroyed.

Common Lodging Houses

There is only one Registered Common Lodging House within the Borough, The White House, Railway Street, providing nightly accommodation for 32 men; the number of accommodations during the year was 4,449, a nightly average of 12 men.

The premises have been kept under observation and the house is generally well conducted. Although the accommodation is not restricted, practically no casual lodgers were received during the year, the semi-permanent lodgers using the premises are elderly and the number continues to decrease.

No case of infectious disease was notified at the house.

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ACT, 1935

Refuse Dumps (Section 26)

In addition to the Corporation's own refuse tip, there is only one other refuse dump in the Borough, this being situate in the Old Clay Pits, Hertingfordbury, consents for its use being given to the Southgate Borough Council in 1947.

Although regular tipping of non-putrescible matter continues to be made, the amount of such tipping is small. During the year precautionary measures were taken to overcome unauthorised tipping which had occasionally been made at this site. The general conditions at the site remain satisfactory.

Employment Agencies (Section 74)

The conduct and management of the only Employment Agency in the Borough, a Domestic Agency, has been in accordance with Part V of the above Act.

Movable Dwellings (*Section 93*)

The two caravans separately sited within the Borough were both removed during the year.

There is one camping-caravan site within the Borough, this site belonging to and controlled by an organisation holding a certificate of the Ministry of Health, and who, by reason of their own camping rules, are exempt from the similar provisions of the Hertfordshire County Council Act.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

During the year two licences were granted for the use of premises as Pet Shops—one being a renewal of an existing licence, the second being a new licence.

HOUSING ACTS 1936-1954

Housing Progress

Tables showing the progress with new housing, and also action taken in respect of substandard properties (as specified in the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925) appear in the statistical section of this Combined Report.

Overcrowding

No survey has been carried out during the year, but the following is a summary of the recorded conditions of overcrowding within the Borough for 1954:—

Number of overcrowded houses at January 1st, 1954	...	1
New cases discovered during the year	...	7
Cases of overcrowding abated during the year	...	3
Number of overcrowding cases remaining at Dec. 31st, 1954	...	5

There are still two cases of borderline overcrowding remaining from 1953.

Certificates of Disrepair

Three applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received and considered by the Council during the year. A Certificate was issued in each case. A further informal application was investigated but this was later withdrawn and no official application was received.

Substandard Housing

Official representation under Section 11 of the Housing Act was made in respect of two houses, for both of which a Certificate of Disrepair had been issued. An undertaking not to re-let the premises was accepted early in 1955 and the tenants were then re-housed by the Corporation. To enable the owner of the adjoining house to carry out works of a structural nature which necessitated vacant possession, and for which the third Certificate of Disrepair was issued, the tenant was also later re-housed by the Corporation.

Following a report on a further house prior to official action under Section 11 of the Act, the Council, having considered all the

circumstances, particularly with regard to the tenancy and the age of the tenant, agreed that statutory action be deferred for the time being.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Food Premises

The total number of Food Shops and other premises dealing with foodstuffs is 203. This number is made up as follows, the separate premises being included under the main trade being carried on:—

Butchers, Meat Stores	...	...	...	...	...	15
Grocers and Provision Merchants	...	...	...	...	...	22
Fish Shops (including Fried Fish Shops)	...	...	...	...	...	8
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	4
Other Food Shops (including small general stores, Green-grocers, Bakers' Shops, Sweet Shops, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	47
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cafes, Restaurants and Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	20
Inns and Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	46
Institutional Kitchens, School and Industrial Canteens and Clubs	...	...	...	...	...	32
Total (inclusive of 55 premises registered under Section 14 and included above)	...	...	...	...	...	203

Excluding visits for the inspection of foodstuffs, the number of inspections and visits to food premises carried out during the year was 198.

Various improvements continue to be carried out at the food premises, including additional washing facilities, improved storage facilities and refrigerators, as well as improvements of a structural character.

During the year a gradual increase has been made in the number of covered display counters in use, together with the continuing increase in the sale of pre-packed goods, this latter being particularly noticeable with pre-packed biscuits.

Ice Cream

Ice Cream Premises

The number of registered premises for the sale of ice cream within the Borough is:—

Registered Dealers (including five new registrations during 1954)	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Registered Producer/Dealer "cold mix"	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	45

Milk and Dairies*Milk Supply*

Number of Producers	...	...	...	...	...	8
,, Producer/Retailers	...	...	...	...	...	1
(Ceased as a Producer early in the year)						
Number of Retail Purveyors of Milk	...	...	...	...	...	6
(One Retail Purveyor discontinued early in the year)						

Milk Specified Area No. 6

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1954, came into operation on April 1st, 1954, and in the Areas specified in the Order, Area No. 6 comprising North and East Hertfordshire included the Borough of Hertford.

The requirements of the Order are that in the "Specified Areas" the use of a special designation is obligatory for the purposes of all sales of milk by retail for human consumption. The making of the Order had mostly been anticipated by the milk traders within the Borough and arrangements for complying with its requirements were completed before its coming into operation. The "Special Designations" of milk are "Pasteurised," "Sterilised" and "Tuberculin Tested" milks.

Of the six retailers of milk within the Borough, three were affected by the Order, one discontinuing retail of undesignated milk and receiving supplies of designated from a pasteurising premises outside the Borough, a second receiving supplies from the pasteurising premises within the Borough, the third arranging for his retail round to be taken over by the firm controlling the pasteurising premises in the town.

On the coming into operation of the Order, all milk retailed within the Borough was received from only three pasteurising premises; each of these three already complying with the Milk (Amendment) Regulations of 1953 requiring, after October 1st, 1954, the use of caps or covers overlapping the lips of containers of "Pasteurised Milk" and the bottling of this milk into its retail containers at the pasteuriser's premises.

*Milk (Special Designations) Regulations**Tuberculin Tested Milk*

Dealers' Licences	...	...	...	...	...	4
Supplementary Dealer's Licence	...	...	...	...	...	1
Producer's Licences (issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries)	...	...	...	...	...	5

Sterilised Milk

Dealers' Licences	...	...	...	...	...	4
Supplementary Dealer's Licence	...	...	...	...	...	1

Pasteurised Milk

Dealers' Licences	...	...	...	...	...	3
Supplementary Dealers' Licences	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pasteuriser's Licence (issued by Herts County Council in respect of premises situate in the Borough)	...	...	...	...	...	1

Of the nine samples of pasteurised milk taken by the Hertfordshire County Council under the Milk in Schools scheme and notified to this department, all were satisfactory.

A further 44 samples of pasteurised milk samples taken from the pasteurising plant within the Borough proved satisfactory.

Meat Premises, Slaughterhouses and Slaughtermen

Meat Premises

There are 15 premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale. The number of Meat Traders in the Borough is 15, with the addition of a Meat Depot of the South Eastern Wholesale Meat Supply Association which was a distribution centre for the meat traders within the surrounding area—this latter, the meat depot, closing down on the derationing and decontrol of meat.

Slaughterhouses

There are now no slaughterhouses within the Borough.

Of the five premises in use in 1939, the renewal of three of the licences have, since that date, been refused on the grounds of structural and material changes and of the condition of the premises, the two remaining premises being in use for other purposes. Up to the time of decontrol of meat, centralised slaughter for the area was carried out at the Ministry of Food's Central Slaughterhouse at Ware.

During the year, at the request of the occupier, the possibilities of reopening one of the closed slaughterhouse premises was examined, but its condition was such that, without extensive rebuilding, the premises were not suitable for use.

Slaughtermen

There are three slaughtermen licensed by the Corporation under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Decontrol of Meat

Prior to the decontrol of meat the general situation regarding slaughtering facilities for the area was closely discussed with the individual traders in the town, this being followed by a meeting of representatives of the Council, the meat traders and other interested persons and organisations. As a result of these discussions it was agreed that the slaughtering facilities within the surrounding area were sufficient to meet the needs of local traders.

Following the decontrol of meat, and the initial changeover having been completed, local arrangements have continued satisfactorily. Supplies, apart from those to multiple shops, are received mainly from the London markets or from two slaughterhouses situate in adjoining districts.

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

During the year a considerable amount of time has been taken up with food inspections. The duties have necessitated a total of

133 visits and the issue of 116 Certificates of Condemnation of Foodstuffs.

The amounts of foodstuffs dealt with and which are set out under their respective headings below, continue to decrease from the immediate post-war years totals of about 4 tons. The total for 1954 of 12 cwt. 23 lb. is approximately half of that of the previous year of 1953.

<i>Canned Foodstuffs</i>		No. of Containers	Weight in lb.
Corned Beef, Ham, and other meats ...	...	75	227½
Soups ...	...	18	22
Pulses and Vegetables ...	...	160	143½
Fruit ...	...	120	176½
Preserves and Jams ...	...	4	5½
Milk ...	...	41	36½
Fish and Fish Products ...	...	13	9½
		—	—
		431	620½
		—	—

Fish

Dogfish ...	84 lb.	Other Fillets ...	42 lb.
Finnan Haddock ...	84 "		—
Cod Fillet ...	56 "	Total Weight of Fish	266 "

Miscellaneous Foodstuffs

Beef—Home Killed:

Forequarter ...	...	Bruised ...	...	...	19 lb.
Topside, Silverside	...	Internal Decomposition	...	9	"
Rump ...	...	Bruised ...	...	6	"
Rump and Fillet	...	Internal Decomposition	...	11	"
Rump and Loin	...	Decomposition	...	82	"

Beef—Imported:

Forequarter (Boneless) ...	Internal Decomposition	...	30	"
Lamb, loin of ...	Decomposition	...	11	"

Pork—Home Killed:

Leg (3 condemnations)	Bruised (total)	...	...	53½	"
Side of Sow ...	Abseessed	...	...	106	"

Head and Trimmings (4 condemnations) ...

Head and Trimmings (4 condemnations) ...	Decomposition	86	"
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Sausages—Pork ...

Bacon—Sliced ...

Cheese (2 condemnations) ...

Total	4 cwt. 32½	lb.
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All the above foodstuffs were disposed of by burial at the Corporation's refuse tip at Foxholes.

Contaminated Foodstuffs.—Following reports in the national press of typhoid contaminated tins of Irish Cream, all local retailers in the Borough were contacted. Only one shop was found to have this particular brand, and the tins, the remainder of an unsold previous consignment, were returned on the request of the importing agents. Later information received from the Ministry of Health suggested that this particular batch was not the one concerned with the original findings. Following up of enquiries was considerably helped by the publicity given in the national press and on the radio.

FACTORIES ACT, 1938

Figures showing the number of factories on the Register, the number of inspections carried out, and details of contraventions discovered and remedied, are shown in a table at the end of the Statistical Section of this Combined Report.

Outworkers

The half-yearly lists of outworkers supplied by factories within the Borough in accordance with the requirements of the Factories Act, include 228 persons. Of this total, 77 are resident within the Borough.

Lists supplied by other local authorities of outworkers employed by firms situate outside the Borough, include 18 persons within the Borough.

The nature of the work carried out by the outworkers living within the Borough is as follows:—

Wearing apparel	...	61	Envelope making	...	6
Brush workers	...	24	Handbag making	...	4

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

There is only one registration within the District, the premises already being registered as a factory carrying on the trade of Carpet Repairs, Mattress Cleaning, Upholstery, and Cabinet Work.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

In view of the advantages and convenience for use, practically all treatments for surface infestations continued to be carried out with the use of a Warfarin bait.

During the year a one-day refresher course organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries was attended by the Rodent Operator.

Corporation Surface Properties. Routine visits were made to all the Council properties occupied by the Corporation.

Private Dwellings. In order to encourage occupiers to give early notifications of infestations, the Corporation continues to service and treat private dwellings without charge.

Business Premises. No fixed contract work is undertaken by the Corporation but six agreements are in operation whereby 14 properties are treated as required, charges for all business premises

being on a time and materials basis. Routine visits are also made to the school canteens and precautionary measures taken during the school holidays.

Agricultural Properties. During the year it was not found necessary to refer infestations to the County Pest Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who by agreement continue to carry out the treatment of agricultural properties.

Sewers. In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, one test-baiting and two treatments of the Corporation sewers were carried out during the year. During March, 65 manholes covering the infested areas of the previous test-baiting were treated.

Of the 480 manholes in the Borough, 79 (or 16 per cent.) were test-baited in October. Although 10 manholes were recorded as showing a "take," the actual evidence in each case was so slight that this recording was made as a precautionary measure. The treatment which was carried out in seven areas containing the 10 manholes, continued to show the gradual decrease in the amount of infestation in the sewers which has been noticeable since this work was first carried out by this Department in 1949. During the treatment "no takes" were recorded in two of the areas and only one "take" in a third area. Of the total of 17 "takes," eight were so slight as to be recorded as a possible.

Summary of Work of Rodent Operator

	Premises Inspected	Inspections		No. of Treatments	
		and Revisits		Mice	Rats
Corporation Properties	14	31	—	5
Private Dwellings	...	2,131	2,740	19	109
Business Premises	...	152	280	5	17
Agricultural Properties	21	21	—	—

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
during 1954

DISEASE	TOTAL	AGE GROUP (in Years)						Age not Known	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 65			
Scarlet Fever ...	6	—	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	5
Whooping Cough ...	25	1	14	9	—	1	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Acute):										
Paralytic	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	7	—	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia ...	7	1	—	2	—	4	—	—	—	1
Dysentery	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis (Acute):										
Infective	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-Infectious	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	5	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malaria	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis notifications are shown in a separate table at the beginning of this Combined District Report.

**INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE
 DURING THE DIFFERENT MONTHS**

DISEASE	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—
Whooping Cough	7	9	5	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles	1	—	—	—	—	2	3	1	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	3	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

HODDESDON URBAN DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLIES

Most of the houses (more than 98%) derive their water from public mains. A few houses are served by standpipes. There are some 50 houses in the district without a public supply; these are mainly situated in the outlying and undeveloped parts of the district. Three properties were connected to the public mains during the year.

Public Mains Supplies

The Northern part of the district is served by the Metropolitan Water Board.

The Council's own water undertaking covers the remainder of the district, all the water being superchlorinated at the pumping station, followed by partial dechlorination on entry into the reservoir prior to distribution through the mains. A chlorine residual recorder is installed.

Fifty-six samples of water were taken from the Council's public supply and submitted for bacteriological examination. All except one were reported as satisfactory, and in this instance there was some doubt as to whether the collecting bottle was sterile.

Adequacy of Supply

During the year, it was found necessary to augment the Council's water supply by the bulk purchase of water from the Metropolitan Water Board.

In view of the continued growth of the district, the Council considered whether they should obtain a further source of supply by sinking additional boreholes or by transferring their existing water undertaking to the Metropolitan Water Board. It was decided, subject to the Minister making an order under the Water Act, 1945, to transfer the undertaking to the Board in 1955.

Private Supplies

During the year 19 samples of water were taken from private supplies serving nine dwellings and submitted for bacteriological examination. Unsatisfactory reports were received from seven sources of supply, but in four instances satisfactory results were subsequently obtained after cleansing of storage tanks and filters.

In one case the supply was abandoned, in another the properties concerned are being dealt with under the Housing Act, 1936, and in a third case the owner is proposing to sink a new deep well.

Borehole, Frogley's Road, Dobbs Weir

Three samples were taken from this source and submitted for bacteriological examination. One was reported as unsatisfactory, but a check sample taken after the storage tank had been cleaned out proved satisfactory.

Factory Supplies

Seventeen samples of water from three factories were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year. Five unsatisfactory samples were obtained from the distribution system of one of these factories, but after the storage tank and feed pipes had been cleaned out by the owners, subsequent samples taken proved satisfactory. A sample from this source was also submitted for full chemical analysis and bacteriological examination, this was reported as satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Most of the district (except for houses in undeveloped and low-lying parts of the area) is sewered. Sewage disposal works consisting of detritus, settling tanks, contact beds and percolating filters, serve the old urban area. Sewage from Broxbourne and Wormley is disposed of by broad irrigation at the sewage farms, after passing through screening and precipitation tanks.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government have given approval in principle to the Council's outline proposals to pump the whole of the soil drainage to the new regional sewage disposal works being constructed at Rye Meads.

The Council's Consulting Engineers have been instructed to prepare a detailed scheme.

Northern Drainage Area

The laying of a short length of sewer in the Stanstead Road area to complete this scheme was not carried out during the year. It is hoped that this scheme and the sewerage of Nursery Road will not be too long delayed.

Houses connected to the Sewer

Three properties in the Springle Lane/Hailey Lane area were connected to the Ware Rural District Council's sewer during the year.

Work commenced on the laying of a private sewer from the Galley Hall public house to the Council's sewer in Ware Road.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Apart from a small number of properties situated in outlying parts of the district, household refuse is collected at weekly intervals, despite the difficulties of the Surveyor in maintaining his labour force necessary for this purpose.

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping methods in a disused gravel pit in Cock Lane, Hoddesdon, well removed from the main residential areas of the district. The tip is regularly treated with insecticide to prevent nuisance from flies and every effort made, with the limited labour available, to comply with the Ministerial suggestions for controlled tips.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, ETC., during the year 1954

The following inspections have been made and the following notices served:—

Dwelling houses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	726
Housing, re-inspections, and interviews with owners	...					2,090
Visits in connection with infectious diseases	...	...				33
Inspection of food shops, food premises and market stalls	...					372
Refuse tip inspections	...	...	...	...	...	67
Inspection of camping grounds and caravans	...					49
Miscellaneous inspections including Pet Shops, Hair-dressers, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	514
Total Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	3,851
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	315
Number of letters and informal Notices	...	...	...	...	...	618
Number of Statutory Notices served	5

Defects Remedied

Drainage and Sanitary Arrangements	537
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PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Statutory Notices

Three Statutory Notices were served under Section 93 to remedy nuisances arising from structural defects to dwelling houses:—

Thatched Cottages, Hailey Lane.

31 Admirals Walk, Hoddesdon.

45 High Road, Wormley.

It was necessary to serve only one Statutory Notice under Section 75 requiring the provision of a dustbin, during the year. The Notice was complied with.

Nursing Home

Following an outbreak of food poisoning at a nursing home, an inspection of the premises was made and it was found necessary to communicate with the owners drawing attention to some sanitary defects which it was considered required attention.

Nuisance—Factories, Westhill, Hoddesdon

In the Report of 1953 it was stated that representations had been made to the owners regarding the discharge of trade effluent which it was alleged was causing a public health nuisance in the Woollensbrook. After many consultations, the owners decided to discontinue using their own sewage purification plant and applied to the Council for facilities to receive the whole of their foul drainage. This would be done by the installation of a pump and the construction of a pumping main to connect with the sewer in Westhill Road. The Council have agreed to this proposal and gave their consent under the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act, 1937, subject to conditions governing the nature, character, etc., of the trade effluent.

Nuisance—Flooding

There was a heavy thunderstorm on June 13th, which caused flooding of houses in several parts of the district. At Broxbourne, two ground floor flats were flooded to a depth of about 2 feet and, in one case, the occupants had to vacate the premises for some considerable time. Floors are below the road level. Remedial measures have been taken by the owners to prevent a recurrence of the trouble.

Complaints were received in the early summer that the ground in the vicinity of some bungalows in the Essex Road and Charlton Mead area was badly waterlogged; and this condition persisted for many months.

The bungalows in question derive their water supply from shallow wells and no public sewer is available. It would appear that the trouble is due to the fact that over a period of years, the ditches draining the land have become overgrown and choked with weeds, and after a lot of correspondence and interviews, some improvement was effected.

The responsibility for the clearing of the main ditch or water-course adjoining Essex Road has not yet been definitely settled—the matter is still the subject of correspondence between the various authorities concerned.

Disinfestation

Eradication of Bed Bugs *

During the year three houses were treated for bug infestation, including two Council houses. The same method of disinfection was followed as in previous years.

Wasps' Nests

Complaints were received about wasps' and hornets' nests and a total of 66 nests were destroyed during the year.

Disinfections

Disinfections were carried out in consequence of infectious diseases (including tuberculosis) in 23 houses.

Sanitary Conveniences

Public Convenience, Wormley

Work of constructing the new public convenience at Wormley was put in hand during the year and the convenience was opened in January, 1955.

Licensed Premises—Public Houses

The modernisation and provision of additional sanitary accommodation at three public houses was carried out during the year.

Premises Licensed for Public Entertainment—Dance Halls, etc.

A new sanitary block was provided at one premises during the year.

Swimming Bath

The Council's swimming pool at "The Spinning Wheel," High Street, Hoddesdon, was opened to the public from May 1st to September 30th.

The water is supplied from the Council's mains. The pool is equipped with modern filtration plant and the "break-point" method of chlorination is employed. The water can be heated to a reasonable temperature when necessary.

Apart from the regular and routine tests for residual chlorine in the water, 22 bacteriological examinations were made during the year, as well as one full chemical analysis. The two adverse results were of samples taken towards the end of the season when the bath was little used owing to inclement weather.

The Council approved a scheme for enlarging the bath with additional filtering plant, etc., and providing new dressing rooms and additional sanitary accommodation. This work was put in hand at the end of the season.

Atmospheric Pollution

Measurement and Recording

There are two stations in this district, one at New River Close, Rye Park, and one on the roof of the Council Offices. Each station consists of a deposit gauge for collecting soot, ash, and grit, and a lead peroxide instrument for measuring sulphur. An analysis of the results shows that during the six winter months from October to March an average of $9\frac{1}{2}$ tons of soot, ash and grit fell upon each square mile of the district each month. This compares with an average of 6 tons each month during the summer. It is possible, therefore, that this difference can be attributed to smoke from domestic chimneys. It will be interesting to observe these results when old-fashioned, obsolete coal burning appliances are replaced by modern, efficiently burning smokeless-fuel appliances in the houses in which we live.

Detailed results are available at the Council Offices.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936-1949

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954

Overcrowding

Five new cases of overcrowding of Council houses and one privately owned house were discovered during the year.

Overcrowding of two Council houses and three privately owned houses and the partial overcrowding of 20 other houses was abated mainly through the allocation of new houses.

Insanitary Properties

The following properties were dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, during the year:—

- Nos. 8 and 10, High Road, Wormley.
- Lea Cottage, Lea Side, Hoddesdon.
- No. 44, High Road, Wormley.
- No. 7, Burford Terrace, Hoddesdon.

Demolition Orders were made in respect of Nos. 8 and 10 High Road, Wormley; Lea Cottage, Lea Side, Hoddesdon, and No. 44 High Road, Wormley. After considering representations from the owner of No. 7 Burford Terrace, Hoddesdon, the Council accepted an undertaking that it be not used for human habitation until rendered fit for that purpose.

The occupiers of the properties concerned were rehoused by the Council in each case and Lea Cottage, Lea Side, Hoddesdon, and No. 44 High Road, Wormley, were demolished early in 1955.

Slum Clearance

Housing Survey

The Survey called for by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in Circular 30/54 was commenced in September and over 100 houses were inspected by the end of the year.

Statutory Notices

A Statutory Notice was served on the owner of one dwelling house under Section 9 to carry out works which the Council considered necessary to render the house fit for human habitation. The Notice was complied with early in 1955.

Certificate of Disrepair

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair under Part II of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, were received during the year.

Improvement of Housing Accommodation

During the year the Council approved applications from two owner/occupiers for grants under Part II of the Housing Act, 1949. The improvements included installation of main drainage, construction of a kitchen, a bathroom, and provision of indoor sanitation.

Housing Progress

Tables showing the progress with new housing, and also action taken in respect of substandard properties (as specified in the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925) appear in the statistical section at the beginning of this Combined Report.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Milk and Dairies

Number of Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	7
Number of Retail Purveyors of Milk	...	...	...	...	...	18
Number of Retail Purveyors of Milk by Round from outside the district	...	...	...	...	...	2

The district became part of a Specified Area in March, 1954, from that date the sale of undesignated milk in the Urban District became illegal. After October the bottling of Pasteurised milk at premises other than those where it is pasteurised, was prohibited. Such bottling is now done at only one dairy in Hoddesdon, which operates a pasteurising plant.

Regular inspection of the dairies was carried out, a total of 33 visits being recorded during the year. After informal action, two dairies were cleansed and redecorated.

Complaints of dirty and chipped milk bottles concerned two dairymen, one of whom operates from outside the district. In both cases informal action was taken to secure better cleansing and scrutiny of bottles and no further complaints were received.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations, 1949

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

Dealers' Licences to use Special Designation:

"Pasteurised"	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
"Sterilised"	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
"Tuberculin Tested"	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
"Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)"	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Supplementary Licences to use Special Designation:

"Pasteurised"	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
"Sterilised"	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
"Tuberculin Tested"	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Milk Sampling

Sixty-four samples of milk were taken from Dealers in the District and submitted for bacteriological examination. A summary of the results obtained is given below:—

Type of Milk	Passed Test	Prescribed Test	Failed to Pass Prescribed Test
Designated Milks	...	62	1
Ungraded Milks	...	1	Nil

School Milk

Twelve samples of milk supplied to schools in the district were taken during the year by the County Council Sampling Officers. All were reported as being satisfactory.

Biological Sampling

The County Council Sampling Officers take samples of milk from producers for biological examination for the presence of *tubercle bacilli* and *brucella abortus*.

Food Premises Generally

Routine inspection of food premises has continued throughout the year, a total of 282 visits being made.

Further efforts were made to improve structural conditions and obtain a better understanding of the risks involved in bad handling of food. It is gratifying to note that some premises were improved on the traders' own initiative without pressure from the department.

Improvements otherwise effected include provision of hot water and washing facilities and cleansing and redecoration.

Food Preparation Premises

After consultation with one local butcher a new food preparation room is being built. The architect has conferred with this department and every effort is being made to produce a building conforming to the highest modern standards.

Market

Regular supervision of stalls selling foodstuffs in the market was maintained and it has been found that such supervision is a considerable deterrent to the more undesirable type of food traders which the market is apt to attract.

Preserved Food, etc.

There are 15 premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or preserved foods.

Ice Cream

There are 55 licensed retailers and one manufacturer registered with the Council and all sell pre-packed ice cream. A total of 17 visits was made to ice cream premises during the year. The sole ice cream manufacturer ceased operations during the year and no ice cream is now manufactured in the Urban District.

Seven samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination as follows:—

Description and Origin and Number of Samples	Provisional Grade			
	1	2	3	4
From Local Manufacturers, one sample	1	—	—	—
Pre-packed retail samples of various makes, six samples 	6	—	—	—

Other Food Premises

There are some 195 other premises in the district where food is prepared, stored or sold, made up as follows:—

Bakers' Shops	8	Licensed Premises ...	27
Bakehouses	7	Fishmongers ...	6
Butchers (incl. one cooked meat manufacturer) ...	14	Fried Fish Shops ...	4
Cafes and Restaurants ...	22	Greengrocers ...	14
Canteens:		Grocers	35
School	7	Confectionery and Sweets	31
Factory	8	General Stores ...	9
Mobile	1	Hotels	1
		Conference Premises ...	1

The above list does not include retailers in the weekly market held in the open air. Usually there is one grocery stall, one fishmonger, four greengrocers and a confectionery stall.

Unsound Food

Condemnation

Details of foodstuffs which were found to be unfit for human consumption and were surrendered are given below. These are disposed of in the Council's controlled tip at Cock Lane, Hoddesdon.

<i>Canned Foodstuffs</i>			No. of Containers	Approx. Weight	
				cwt.	lb.
Meat and Meat Products ...	...	...	254	8	44
Milk ... ...	...	...	3		3
Fish ... ...	...	...	1		1
Fruit and Vegetables ...	...	...	6		5
				8	53

Miscellaneous Foodstuffs

Beef ... ...	...	...	...	...	2	13
Pork ... ...	...	...	...	...	1	6
Beasts' Livers	...	...	...	...		39
Sheeps' Livers	...	...	...	...		6
Pork Sausages	...	...	...	...		14
					3	78

Total weight of all Foodstuffs: 12 cwt. 19 lb.

Slaughterhouses

When meat was derationed in June it became the responsibility of the local authorities to ensure that slaughtering facilities in their districts were adequate. Meetings with local butchers showed that only one wished to resume slaughtering, the remainder being satisfied that supplies from wholesalers would be sufficient.

After alteration and improvement, one slaughterhouse was licensed and brought into use and is regularly inspected.

Meat Inspection

During the period June–December the following animals were slaughtered at the slaughterhouse referred to above: 28 beasts, 67 pigs, 121 sheep, and 54 lambs. All the carcases were inspected and details of organs, etc., condemned are given under "Unsound Food".

Illicit Slaughtering

Whilst a routine inspection of a smallholding was being carried out, it was discovered that illicit slaughter of calves was in progress. The slaughterers fled and despite protracted investigations by the Police and the Ministry of Food Enforcement Officers, could not be traced. No further action could therefore be taken, although a warning was given to the tenants of the smallholding.

Transport of Meat

Attention was again called to the unsatisfactory method of conveying home-killed meat to the local butchers' shops.

It is hoped that with the return to normal conditions in the meat industry, a marked improvement can be expected in methods of handling carcases. The matter will be kept under observation.

THE PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

There were two Pet Shops in operation in the district during the year and licences were issued under the above Act.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Fifty-seven visits and inspections were made during the year. Details of matters dealt with during the year are given in the table at the beginning of this Combined Report.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Private Dwellings

The Council continued to give a free service to private dwellings and a total of 119 complaints of infestation were received from occupiers during the year.

Business Premises

Contracts with the owners of two commercial properties for the servicing and treatment of their premises, were in operation during the year. Treatment of 31 business premises was carried out by arrangement with the owners on a time and material basis.

Agricultural Properties

Although the Council is the responsible authority under the Act, infestations on agricultural properties are referred to the County Agricultural Committee, who, by agreement, continue to carry out the treatment of such properties.

Sewers

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, test baiting of the Council's three

sewerage systems was carried out in May, with the following results:—

	Hoddesdon and Rye Park	Brox- bourne	Wormley
Total number of sewer manholes (approx.) 227 160 48			
Number of manholes test baited ... 39 19 7			
" " " " showing "takes" 11 Nil Nil			
<i>Treatment was carried out as follows:—</i>			
<i>May, 1954</i>			
Number of manholes baited 24 — —			
" " " " showing "takes" 13 — —			
<i>October, 1954</i>			
Number of manholes baited 25 — —			
" " " " showing "takes" 12 — —			

Prevalence of Rats and Mice and Measures of Control (Summarised)

Number of Inspections made 1,798				
" " properties inspected 785				
" " properties infested with rats and mice 170				
Total number of treatments carried out to all properties ... 218				

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ACT, 1935

Movable Dwellings

Permission was granted during the year for the placing of six movable dwellings on land in the Urban District, for limited periods only.

Lea Wharf Estate

There are still some 10 caravans and 100 other shacks on this estate situated near the west bank of the River Lea at Wormley. These are used mainly at week-ends during the summer months and so far as can be ascertained none are now in use for permanent habitation. It is still hoped to deal with this area under the Town and Country Planning Act and intending purchasers of riverside plots are advised of the planning restrictions in operation.

Dobbs Weir Riverside Holidays, Frogley's Road, Dobbs Weir

This Camp, set up in 1951, is well conducted and the consent granted by the Council under the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935, and the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, provides for the placing of 100 movable dwellings on the site from the Sunday before Easter to October 31st in each year to 1955.

The maximum number of caravans actually on the site at any time, during the 1954 season, was not more than 60.

**NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
during 1954**

DISEASE	TOTAL	AGE GROUP (in Years)						Age not Known	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 65			
Scarlet Fever ...	12	—	4	8	—	—	—	—	6	1
Whooping Cough ...	38	4	19	13	—	1	—	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Acute):										
Paralytic ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia ...	8	—	—	1	1	2	4	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis (Acute):										
Infective ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-Infectious ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	7	—	1	2	2	2	—	—	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Malaria ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis notifications are shown in a separate table at the beginning of this Combined District Report.

**INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE
DURING THE DIFFERENT MONTHS**

DISEASE	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Scarlet Fever ...	—	5	2	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	2	—	4	4	16	5	2	4	1
Ac. Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Acute Pneumonia	3	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	1
Erysipelas ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—
Meningitis ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES: COMMENT

Food Poisoning

Fewer cases occurred than during 1953. One series which occurred at Rye Park involved three separate families. The germ responsible in each case was *Salmonella typhimurium*. Routine enquiries and laboratory investigations failed to reveal the source of infection.

Another series of cases arose in Broxbourne. Extensive enquiries failed to reveal how the first person to fall ill became infected, but thereafter the spread of the disease was by direct cross-infection, and resulted in four further cases of illness. The causative organism was *Salmonella typhimurium*. The spread of illness arose through the common use of a bathroom and lavatory, as well as from the presence of three symptomless carriers of infection. The outbreak ceased abruptly when measures were taken to remove all the known sources of infection, which included the strict enforcement of higher general standards of hygiene.

SAWBRIDGEWORTH URBAN DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY

The piped supply is provided by the Herts and Essex Water Company to 1,180 houses, eight of which share three standpipes.

Fifty-six houses in the district, including new houses, were connected to the mains during the year, leaving five dwellings in Spelbrook which are supplied from privately-owned wells.

Quality

Bacteriological

Reports were received upon 31 samples of the town's water supply, and show that B. Coli were absent from 100 ml. in each case.

Chemical

The result of a chemical analysis of a sample of the town's water supply is set out below:—

Results in Parts per Million					6th January, 1954
Appearance	...	...	...	...	Faint opalescence with very few mineral particles. 6
Turbidity (Silica scale)	...	...			Filtered
Colour (Hazen)	...	...	...		Nil
Odour	...	...	...
Reaction pH	...	...	...		7.2
Free CO ₂	...	...	...		2.8
Electric Conductivity at 20° C.	...				660
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	...	...	...		310
Total solids dried at 180° C.	...	...			445
Hardness:					
Carbonate (Temporary)	...	...			310
Non-Carbonate (Permanent)	...				45
Total	...	...	...		355
Nitrogen in:					
Nitrates	...	...	...		0.0
Nitrites	...	...	...		0.0
Free Ammonia	...	...	...		0.25
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...		0.00
Residual Chlorine	...	...	...		Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C.	...				0.30
Metals	...	...	...		Iron 1.4 Other metals absent
Fluorine	...	...	...		0.6

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Most of the district is served by main drainage. Sewage is disposed of at two sewage works. The effluent at the principal works is discharged into the River Stort after purification and in the case of the other (smaller) works it is disposed of by septic tank treatment followed by land irrigation.

Analysis of Sewage Effluent

Two out of four samples of effluent taken from the Central Sewage Works were satisfactory, upon analysis. Of the remainder one was slightly high in suspended matter, and the other in biological oxygen demand.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Household refuse is collected fortnightly and is disposed of by controlled tipping on ground adjacent to the principal sewage works. Special arrangements are made in connection with trade refuse.

PARTICULARS OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK during the year 1954

Summary of Visits

Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	217
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	54
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	...	76
Factories Act	...	...	...	...	...	31
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	226
						—
Total	...	...	...	...	...	604
						—
Number of Informal Notices served			...	...		13
Number of Statutory Notices served			...	...		Nil

HOUSING ACTS, 1936-1949

Thirty-three houses were completed and tenanted on the Bullfields Housing Estate and work was commenced on a further 13 during the year. It is hoped that the houses will be ready for occupation in July, 1954.

Ex-Aerodrome Site—Parsonage Estate

Sixteen huts were demolished during 1954, and the occupants rehoused. Twenty-two huts were still occupied at the end of the year.

Housing Progress

Tables showing the progress with new housing, and also action taken in respect of substandard properties (as specified in the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925) appear in the statistical section of this Combined Report.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

Milk

Number of Retail Purveyors of Milk	...	...	2
Number of Dairies	...	...	1

Supplementary Licences to use Special Designations

Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	2
Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	2

The Dairy was inspected on 10 occasions during the year. Purveyors' delivery vehicles also receive frequent inspection.

Milk Sampling

Two samples of milk were taken from dealers and submitted for bacteriological examination and each sample passed the prescribed test.

Ice Cream

No ice cream is manufactured in the district. There are 11 registered premises and regular inspection of the premises has been carried out.

Ice Cream Samples

Eight samples of ice cream were collected from retailers and submitted for examination and in every case the report was Provisional Grade 1.

Unsound Food

The following foods were found unfit for human consumption and were surrendered:—

Category				No. of Tins or Containers	Weight in lb.
Meat (Tinned)	...	...	...	7	28
Fruit and Vegetables	...	...	...	26	48
Cereals, etc.	...	...	...	9	22
				—	—
Total Weight	...	...	...		98
(1953 Total: 313 lb.)					

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent Control

Total number of premises inspected	...	...	...	96
Number of premises found to be infested	...	...	...	32
,, „ premises treated by the Council	...	...	...	32
Total number of visits	...	...	...	183

No charge is made in respect of private dwellings.

Routine sewer treatments were carried out twice during the year, and the Council Tip and Sewage Works were similarly treated.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

One lady, 89 years of age, became in urgent need of care and attention but refused to enter an institution. She was removed to Western House, Ware, on May 18th under an Authority issued by a Justice of the Peace in accordance with the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951. The Order was subsequently extended for three months, after the Council had made application to a Magistrate's Court.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1954

Full details of the Births and Deaths figures are given in Table 2 of the Vital and General Statistics, at the commencement of this Combined Report.

The Standardised Death Rate for Sawbridgeworth is 7.27 per thousand population. This compares very favourably with the National Rate of 11.3, and is also the lowest individual figure in the Combined District.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES: CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Tuberculosis

Visit of Mass X-Ray Unit

In July a Mass X-Ray Unit visited Sawbridgeworth for the first time, and set up its apparatus at the Memorial Hall adjoining the Council Offices. A total of 618 persons, comprising 334 men and 284 women, were X-Rayed. Of this number only 15 were re-examined on large films. No cases of active lung tuberculosis were discovered, but there were four people who had inactive tuberculosis.

**NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
during 1954**

Tuberculosis notifications are shown in a separate table at the beginning of this Combined District Report.

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING THE DIFFERENT MONTHS

WARE URBAN DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY

Most of the town is supplied from two wells sunk in chalk, one at Musley Lane, and the other at Musley Hill, the former being the main source of supply. The Highfields area, however, is supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board. All these supplies are chlorinated.

A scheme for the installation of a booster station at Watton Road to improve the Westmill area supply is now in operation. During the year extensions have been laid to provide water mains to new housing estates and industrial development.

Quality

Twenty-four routine samples of town water were taken for bacteriological examination, and showed B. Coli absent in 100 ml. in each case.

The result of chemical analysis of samples taken on the 24th June from both the Musley Lane (High Level supply) and Musley Hill (Low Level supply) is as follows:—

Chemical Results in Parts per Million			High Level Supply	Low Level Supply
Appearance	...	...	Clear and Bright	Clear and bright
Turbidity (Silica scale)	...	...	Nil	Nil
Colour	...	...	Nil	Nil
Odour	...	...	Nil	Nil
Reaction pH	...	...	6.9	7.1
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	47	30
Electric Conductivity	...	...	620	610
Total Solids	...	...	415	410
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	24	23
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	...	...	260	265
Hardness:				
Carbonate	...	...	260	265
Non-carbonate	...	...	105	80
Total	...	...	365	345
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	6.4	5.6
Nitrogen in Nitrites	...	...	Absent	Less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	0.020	0.021
Oxygen Absorbed	...	...	0.0	0.15
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	0.000	0.000
Residual Chlorine	...	...	0.02	Absent
Metals:			Absent	Absent

Both samples from the High and Low Level supplies are clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is very hard in character though not excessively so, and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic quality.

From the aspect of chemical analysis, these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Practically the whole of the district is sewered.

Construction of the new Trunk Sewer from Stevenage New Town, through the Urban District, is now complete. The scheme for seweraging the London Road area, and a relief sewer for the High Street have now been completed and connected to the Trunk Sewer. In addition, a further connection has been made near the Railway Station. Schemes are in the course of preparation for connection of the remainder of the district to the Trunk Sewer. When these are complete the Stanstead Abbotts Pumping Station will be abandoned. During the year extensions to sewers have taken place on various housing schemes.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A weekly collection of refuse is in operation with special arrangements for trade refuse.

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping off Amwell End, and a further Refuse Tip is to be established at Cranemead.

PARTICULARS OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK during the year 1954

Summary of Visits

Sewers, Drains, Sanitary Accommodation, etc. ...	... 235
Nuisances ... ... ... ... ...	... 219
Infectious Disease ... ... ... ...	... 48
Housing Overcrowding, Repairs, Housing Acts, etc. ...	... 153
Food Premises, Section 13, Condemnations ...	... 53
Ice Cream, Factories, Retailers, Sampling ...	... 55
Milk, Dairies, Sampling ... ... ...	... 39
Slaughter House: Inspection of Meat ...	... 631
Butchers' Shops, Meat Transport, etc. ...	... 16
Shops Act, 1934 (Section 10) ...	... 2
Rats and Mice ... ... ...	... 50
Factories and Outworkers ... ... ...	... 35
Total	1,536

Complaints Received

General	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	154
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	198

Notices, etc., Served*Informal Notices*

Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
Food and Drugs Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Factories Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	84

Statutory Notices

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 45	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Housing Act, 1936, Section 11 (Time and Place)	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Housing Act, 1936, Section 168	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Pet Shops Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Caravans Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Slaughterhouses Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Extensive informal action has been taken during the year to secure the abatement of nuisances. It was necessary to serve one formal notice for a closet repair.

Rearing of chickens on a large scale in deep litter houses has caused annoyance from time to time. Every effort has been made by the owners to conduct the business according to the recommendations of experts in this comparatively new system of poultry keeping.

No nuisance was observed during the year from the burning of cable at a site referred to in the report for the year 1953.

It has been estimated that in Ware during the winter months just over 8,000 tons of coal are burnt (excluding coke and anthracite). This fuel is consumed by industry and domestic fires in almost equal proportions. Owing to the low efficiency of the latter the local problem appears to rest mainly with domestic fuel utilisation.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936-1954**Housing Progress**

Tables showing the progress with new housing, and also action taken in respect of substandard properties (as specified in the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925) appear in the statistical section of this Combined Report.

Substandard Housing

Owing to the post-war demand for housing accommodation, many old cottages are being made cosy by the new owners for their own occupation. Whereas the market values of these old cottages have risen from six to ten times the pre-war values, the cost of a new house has risen between three and four times.

Consequently any clearance procedure involving owner-occupiers' dwellings brings greater hardship to the dispossessed and greater expense to the authority contemplating clearance.

Two areas comprising six houses and other buildings in Monkey Row and two houses and workshop in The Pound, London Road, were Officially Represented for clearance procedure. The Council decided to deal with Monkey Row by other means (Under-takings not to re-let in accordance with Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936), but declared the latter to be a "clearance area".

Two houses which were the subject of demolition orders in 1953 were demolished, and four houses condemned pre-war were also cleared.

Two houses in Crib Street were reconditioned and occupied, although originally represented for clearance area procedure. The owner of another two houses in that area is still carrying out alterations.

Overcrowding

No survey has been carried out; but cases of overcrowding have been investigated as follows:—

	Privately Owned	Council Houses	Total
Number of overcrowded houses brought forward at 1st Jan., 1954	2	8	10
New cases of overcrowding discovered during 1954	0	1	1
Number of cases abated	1	4	5
Number of overcrowded houses at 31st Dec., 1954	1	5	6

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The regular inspection and treatment which was possible throughout the district for the whole year kept infestations within reasonable limits.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

Meat Inspection

Virtually all animals slaughtered in the district were inspected.

The changeover from rationing to private trading was effected very smoothly at the 1st July.

The occupier of the slaughterhouse continues to dispose of condemned and inedible meat and offals through the same trade channels used by the Ministry of Food. Some meat is permitted to be used for animal food when the circumstances are considered appropriate.

Eleven notifications of suspected swine fever were given.

Since decontrol, the previous tendency to overcrowd the cooling room of the slaughterhouse has not occurred.

An open lairage was resurfaced and drained.

Total Weight of Meat Condemned, in lb.

Home Killed:		Beef	Mutton	Pork	Total
Diseased	...	28,386	1,770	12,471	42,627
Decomposition	...	81	—	—	81
Imported:					
Diseased	...	12	—	—	12
Decomposition	...	16	—	—	16

Total Weight in lb. of Carcase Meat Condemned

	Beef	Veal	Mutton	Pork	Total
Market	6,186	242	290	1,792	8,510
Casualty	4,777	23	73	5,863	10,736
Totals	10,963	265	363	7,655	19,246

Carcases Inspected and Condemned during 1954.

	Cattle (excl. Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed during 1954	2,085	445	712	5,929	4,633
No. killed during 1953	3,214	660	1,513	8,696	3,660
No. inspected during 1954	2,085	445	712	5,929	4,626
No. inspected during 1953	3,214	660	1,513	8,696	3,660
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcases condemned	3	3	9	5	37
% of the number inspected totally condemned	0·14	0·67	1·26	0·08	0·80
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcases condemned	2	5	—	—	4
% of the number inspected totally condemned	0·10	1·12	—	—	0·09

Milk and Dairies

Number of Retail Purveyors of Milk 7

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations, 1949.

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Dealers' Licences to use Special Designation:

"Pasteurised"	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
"Sterilised"	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
"Tuberculin Tested"	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Supplementary Licences to use Special Designation:

"Pasteurised"	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
"Sterilised"	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
"Tuberculin Tested"	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

In common with other districts in North and East Hertfordshire which have been declared a Specified Area no undesignated milk has been sold since 1st April, 1954. The only designations permitted since 1st October are "Tuberculin Tested," "Sterilised" and "Pasteurised."

Ice Cream

Sampling at Large Factory

Year	Samples at Factory					Retail Samples (other Authorities)				
	Total Samples	% in each Grade				Total Samples	% in each Grade			
		1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4
1954	50	82·0	16·0	2·0	—	20	55·0	5·0	30·0	10·0
1953	55	43·6	14·6	18·2	23·6	142	45·0	13·4	16·2	25·4
Percentage in each Grade recommended by Advisory Committee						over 50%	under 30%	under 20%	Nil	

Other Foods

The following foods were found to be unfit for human consumption and were surrendered:—

		No. of Containers	Approx. Weight in lb.
Tinned Foods	96
Tinned Meat	226
			322

Number of condemnation notes issued: 81.

Bread

Following complaints of mouldiness in wrapped cut loaves, it appeared that the loaves were at least five days old before purchase by the consumer. With such a delay in the summer months, it is not surprising that moulds had grown. It is suggested that the wrapping should bear a date stamp in preference to a baker's code mark.

Date stamping of wrapped foods in general might be advantageous. In another case concerning soup powder the manufacturers stated that the packets in question were over three years old and suggested the stocks were not being used in strict rotation by the wholesalers or retailers.

Other Food Premises

So far as is known nothing in the nature of food handling is now being given out to homeworkers.

Retail grocers in the town were visited following isolation of typhoid organisms in a brand of tinned cream. None of the particular brand was on sale in the district.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—COMMENT**Acute Poliomyelitis**

One case of Acute (Paralytic) Poliomyelitis, in an eight-year-old girl, occurred during December. A sister of the patient was temporarily excluded from school, and the child's mother also remained away from work for a period of three weeks. No other cases occurred.

Tuberculosis

In July, a Mass Radiography Unit visited Ware and carried out a survey which included staff at local factories and also members of the general public. A total of 1,904 people comprising 865 women and 1,039 men were X-Rayed. Of this total 62 were recalled for further examination. It was found that four persons had active lung tuberculosis, and 15 others had inactive lung tuberculosis.

Dysentery

Following notification of a case of Sonne Dysentery check measures were taken, but the source of infection was not traced. No further cases occurred.

**NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
during 1954**

DISEASE	TOTAL	AGE GROUP (in Years)						Age not Known	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 65			
Scarlet Fever ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	6	—	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Acute):										
Paralytic	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Non-Paralytic	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis (Acute):										
Infective	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-Infectious	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Malaria	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis notifications are shown in a separate table at the beginning of this Combined District Report.

**INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE
DURING THE DIFFERENT MONTHS**

DISEASE	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

BRAUGHING RURAL DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY

Source of Supply

There is a piped supply in each of the 21 parishes. Fifteen of these are supplied from the Chipping Pumping Station. Out of the remaining six parishes Thorley is supplied from Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council, High Wych from the Herts and Essex Water Co., leaving the two Hadhams, Albury and Braughing, which are supplied from the Standon Station in the Ware Rural District.

Quality of Water Supply

Bacteriological

Samples of water taken each month from the Chipping Pumping Station were subjected to bacteriological test, and the report on each sample was satisfactory.

Distribution of Water Services

Parish	Type of Water Supply		
	Water in House	Outside Supply (Standpipe)	Wells
	No. of Houses	No. of Houses	No. of Houses
Albury	159	16	1
Anstey	67	20	16
Ardeley	85	26	11
Aspenden	75	—	—
Braughing	185	115	5
Brent Pelham	53	5	4
Broadfield	5	—	—
Buckland	92	16	1
Buntingford	525	58	1
Cottered	113	15	2
Furneux Pelham ...	102	18	7
High Wych	130	20	37
Hormead	199	4	—
Little Hadham	224	34	—
Meesden	37	4	—
Much Hadham	584	41	1
Stocking Pelham ...	39	5	—
Thorley	61	5	—
Throcking	23	3	1
Westmill	54	7	15
Wyddial	25	14	1
Totals	2,837	426	103

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Cesspools

The cesspool emptying service was continued but the demand was heavier than in previous years and it was found impossible to keep pace with the requests for this service. Inevitable delay occurred in meeting the requests, and at the end of the year there was a long waiting list.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936-1954

Housing Progress

Tables showing the progress with new housing, and also action taken in respect of substandard properties (as specified in the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925) appear in the Statistical Section of this Combined Report.

No Demolition Orders were made by the Council during 1954, and no properties were demolished.

Temporary Dwellings

High Wychi Camp, which adjoins the Parsonage Estate at Sawbridgeworth, continues to house 20 families in huts or temporary accommodation. Three families moved out during the year, and the properties they vacated were rendered uninhabitable.

Slum Clearance

Because of a re-survey of property required in connection with the Housing and Rents Act, 1954, the Council have commenced a re-survey of houses placed in Category 5 of the Rural Housing Survey.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Milk Sampling

Routine samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests, and the following results were notified:—

Total Number of Samples	Passed Prescribed Test		Failed to Pass	
	Graded	Ungraded	Graded	Ungraded
91	78	1	10	2

On April 1st, 1954, the District became part of a Specified Area, in which no undesignated milk must be sold for human consumption. The designations permitted after October 1st, 1954, are "Tuberculin Tested," "Sterilised" and "Pasteurised." Specified Area No. 6 includes 15 districts in North and East Hertfordshire.

Tuberculous Milk

A Milk Diversion Order, made under Section 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, during October, 1953, in respect of milk from a tuberculous herd of cows, remained in force until the Divisional Veterinary Officer reported that the herd was free from infection. The Order, which required that all the milk from the herd concerned should be heat treated before sale for human consumption, was finally removed in October, 1954.

Slaughterhouses

Prior to 1939 there were eight slaughterhouses in operation in the Council's area; these were all closed during the war. As a

result of de-rationing of meat, in July, 1954, three applications were received for licences to reopen and operate private slaughterhouses. After the execution of certain works requested by the Council, the slaughterhouses commenced to operate, and continue to do so satisfactorily. Killing takes place most frequently on Monday, Tuesday and Saturday afternoons and evenings, the inspection of the carcases and offal takes place in the evenings after slaughter is completed.

Meat Inspection

Total number of Carcasses inspected	...	...	...	651
Meat condemned as unfit for human consumption:			lb.	
Home killed	...	...	...	2,085
Imported	...	...	...	Nil
Canned meat products	...	...	...	Nil

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent Control

Total number of properties inspected	...	...	...	364
Total number of premises found to be infested	...	...	...	364
Number of premises treated by the Council	...	...	...	361

Routine treatments have been continued on the Council's refuse tips at Braughing, Buckland, Furneux Pelham, Little Hadham and Much Hadham. Test baits have been laid in the Council's sewerage systems at Buntingford, Cottered, High Wych and Much Hadham, with negative results in each system.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
during 1954

DISEASE	TOTAL	AGE GROUP (in Years)						Age not Known	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 65			
Scarlet Fever ...	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	48	3	19	23	1	2	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Acute):										
Paralytic ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia ...	7	1	2	1	—	2	1	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis (Acute):										
Infective ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-Infectious ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmnia Neonatorum	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice ...	6	—	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
Malaria ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis notifications are shown in a separate table at the beginning of this Combined District Report.

**INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE
 DURING THE DIFFERENT MONTHS**

DISEASE	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	1	3	26	14	1	1	—	2	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Acute Pneumonia	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	2
Jaundice...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE
NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES
among the different parishes**

Parish			Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Acute Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Infective Jaundice
Albury	15	—	1	—	1
Anstey	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ardeley	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aspenden	—	2	—	—	—	—
Braughing	—	1	—	—	—	—
Brent Pelham	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Broadfield	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buckland	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buntingford	...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Cottered	...	—	—	7	—	—	—	—
Furneux Pelham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
High Wych	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hormead	...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Little Hadham	...	—	—	7	—	—	—	—
Meesden	...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Much Hadham	...	—	—	4	—	—	—	4
Stocking Pelham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorley	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Throcking	...	—	—	7	—	—	—	—
Westmill	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Wyddial	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES : COMMENT

Illness Outbreak at "The Hadhams"

On February 3rd, 1954, information was received that an attack of sickness had affected many of the children attending Much Hadham Primary School. The majority of the victims had vomited shortly after arriving home the previous evening, and the sickness lasted most of the night. Only a few suffered from diarrhoea. Recovery had been fairly rapid, and most of the children were back at school the next morning.

Preliminary investigations suggested that the illness might have been due to some form of food poisoning, and an early effort was made to discover if this was so. More detailed information obtained by visiting a number of patients, and from an inspection of the School and School Canteen, revealed a state of affairs not typical of food poisoning. This viewpoint was strengthened when a further report was received the same morning that children from two further schools at Little Hadham, a mile or so away, were also affected by a similar complaint. In a search for a common factor between these outbreaks, the only reasonable possibilities were the main water supply, and the milk supply. Samples of

water and milk were collected, and a request was made to a neighbouring local authority, and to the Hertfordshire County Council, to conduct an inspection of the dairy premises and the pasteurisation plant therein, both of which were outside the Combined Districts of East Herts.

Meanwhile, during the space of two days a total of 31 specimens of faeces, vomit, nose and throat swabs, remnants of meals partaken by some of the victims, milk samples, and water samples, were collected and taken to the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory. Speedy delivery of such specimens to the laboratory is of great assistance to the Bacteriologist.

The laboratory reports on all the specimens showed no evidence in support of food poisoning, dysentery, or of any other Enteric type of infection. The Director of the Laboratory, and a Medical Officer at the Ministry of Health considered that the illness may have been due to a virus infection.

General Remarks

The unusual feature at "The Hadhams" was the small number of victims with diarrhoea; and also the explosive nature of the outbreak. A total of 88 persons are known to have been affected, and comprised the following cases:—

		<i>Children</i>	<i>Adults</i>
At Much Hadham School	...	42	4
Little Hadham School	...	22	—
Hadham Hall School	...	16	1
Others	...	2	1

In conclusion, I was impressed by the management of the Much Hadham School Canteen, and with the general layout and equipment, as well as the considerable care taken by the staff in the interests of food hygiene.

HERTFORD RURAL DISTRICT

Introduction

In the year under review, the development of the Council's activities in the field of Public Health has continued to be directed towards fulfilment of the primary duty of local government—the promotion and maintenance of environmental conditions conducive to the good health of the population. Moreover, the changing climate of public opinion in this direction, as encouraged by wartime population movements, by a prolonged period of full employment, and all combined with the final release of the building industry from control by licensing, facilitates the attainment of this goal.

The effect of these influences has been threefold, and can readily be ascertained as a continued expansion in demand for the Council's utility services (main water, main drainage, refuse collection and cesspool emptying), a satisfying increase in the numbers of houses modernised with the aid of Improvement Grants, and a renewal of the operation of Sections 9, 11 and 25 of the Housing Act, 1936, which relate to houses not fit for human habitation.

WATER SUPPLIES

As in previous years, the greater part of the District is provided with mains water by three distribution systems serving respectively the Northern, Central and Southern areas; Hertford Heath continues to be supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board, Wormley West End derives supply from the mains of Hoddesdon Urban District Council, and Hertford Borough mains supply a small number of houses at Waterford Common.

Estate supplies continue in operation, but during the year Chelsing Farm and four cottages, all in the parish of Bengeo Rural, were connected with the Council's mains.

Quality of Mains Supply

Chemical

The result of chemical analysis of samples taken from the three sources of supply is as follows:—

Chemical Results in Parts per Million	Little Berkhamstead	Aston	Burnham Green Reservoir
Appearance	Clear and Bright	Bright with very few mineral particles.	Bright with very few mineral particles.
Turbidity (Silica scale)	Nil	Nil	Less than 3
Colour (Hazen) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Odour	Nil	Nil	Nil
Reaction pH	7·2	7·2	7·3
Free Carbon Dioxide	22	22	18
Electric Conductivity at 20° C.	560	520	520
Total solids dried at 180° C.	375	350	350
Chlorine in Chlorides	23	15	14
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	245	245	245
Hardness:			
Total	295	300	290
Temporary ...	245	245	245
Permanent ...	50	55	45
Nitrogen in Nitrates	4·2	2·8	5·6
Nitrogen in Nitrites...	Less than 0·01	Less than 0·01	0·01
Free Ammonia ...	0·000	0·000	0·000
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27° C. ...	0·10	0·05	0·00
Albuminoid Ammonia	0·000	0·000	0·000
Residual Chlorine ...	Absent	Absent	Absent
Metals	Absent	Zinc 0·8 Other metals absent	Absent

Remarks

From the aspect of the chemical analyses, these results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water, suitable for drinking purposes, though of considerable hardness.

Bacteriological

The quality of supplies is summarised in the table below:—

	Public Supply	Estate Mains	Individual Private Wells
Class I: "Highly satisfactory" ...	82	1	2
Class II: "Satisfactory" ...	1	4	1
Class III: "Suspicious" ...	1	1	2
Class IV: "Unsatisfactory" ...	—	4	7
Total	84	10	12

Means of Supply to Dwellings

Details regarding supply of water to dwelling houses are as set out below, and an overall statement of the growth of the Council's main supplies will be found in the composite table at the end of the section relating to supplies and services; by comparison with the previous year's table, it will be seen that the number of houses dependent upon standpipes has fallen by seven; the number not supplied by public mains has been reduced by 2.

Parish	Houses connected to Mains		Houses supplied by Wells and Private Systems	No Means of Supply	Total
	Piped	Standpipe			
Aston	160	7	19	2	188
Bayford	111	4	4	2	121
Benington	183	10	3	—	196
Bengeo	97	3	2	3	105
Bramfield	65	1	2	—	68
Brickendon	81	1	35	—	124
Datchworth	282	27	9	—	318
Hertingfordbury ...	192	3	7	—	202
Hertford Heath ...	238	34	2	—	274
Little Berkhamstead	147	4	3	—	154
Sacombe	60	—	—	1	61
Stapleford	113	26	4	—	143
Tewin	259	16	3	—	278
Walkern	227	8	14	—	249
Watton	244	9	1	—	254
	2,459	153	115	8	2,735

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

In spite of an inability to obtain firm information upon the financial aspect of the proposal to discharge the sewage of Datchworth into the Stevenage Trunk Sewer, the Council has been permitted to obtain tenders for the constructional works involved; a starting date of March 1st, 1955, has moreover been provisionally allotted, and there is at last hope of real progress towards provision of main drainage in this comparatively large community.

In the parish of Bengeo Rural, negotiations have continued between the Council and the owner of the site of the proposed sewage disposal works; the scheme has been prepared and forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, but no indication has yet been received as to the prospect of an early decision.

With the completion during 1953 of the main sewer conveying from Hertford Heath all sewage (storm overflows excepted), for treatment by the Hertford Borough Council at their own works, the responsibilities of the Great and Little Amwell Joint Sewerage Committee came to an end; the Committee held its last meeting, and formally dissolved, on May 1st, 1954.

Considerable difficulties were experienced, and the displeasure of the Lea Conservancy Catchment Board incurred, in connection with conditions at Brickendon sewage treatment plant. It was eventually discovered that without permission, a drain receiving farmyard sewage had been connected into the sewer, and that the purification process was being completely unbalanced by the relatively large quantities of liquor thus discharged. It was not possible to take a prosecution against the person responsible for this illegal discharge of trade effluent as the facts were discovered out of time; nevertheless, steps were taken to secure disconnection and when, at the end of the year, this had still not been achieved, it was decided that there was no alternative but for the Council themselves to remove the connection and recover the cost of so doing.

General. During the year, the number of houses connected to public sewers increased by 70, part of this number being represented by new houses and the remainder of existing houses newly connected; further details are given in the composite table.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection

This continues upon the basis of a fortnightly collection at each property, and all refuse thus collected is transported to the privately operated tipping site at Cole Green; periodic visits to this site confirm that it is conducted in a proper manner, and that the dual purposes of refuse disposal and land reclamation are proceeding harmoniously.

Cesspool Emptying

The demand for this service has shown a great increase in spite of the provision of main drainage in certain parishes in recent years, and is a direct reflection of the rate of new house construction and modernisation of older properties in those areas where main drainage is not yet provided; the difficulty of disposing of the resultant cesspool liquor is always present, and although in earlier years there was little hope of improvement in this direction, the presence of two trunk sewers which cross the District from north to south and from west to east respectively suggests a possible method of disposal. At the present time, however, the administration of these newly constructed sewers has not been decided upon, and there is as yet no responsible body which can be approached in the matter.

SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S UNDERTAKINGS AND SERVICES

The table set out below indicates the expansion which has taken place in the provision of main water, main drainage, refuse collection and cesspool emptying between March, 1952, when records for this purpose were commenced, and December, 1954. The position at both dates is expressed numerically and, using the

figures relating to the earlier occasion as a datum of 100 per cent., the development since that date is expressed as a percentage:—

		31st March, 1952		31st Dec., 1954	
		No.	% of Datum	No.	% of Datum
Houses in District	...	2,562	100	2,735	106.8
MAIN WATER					
Houses Served	...	2,152	100	2,382	110.8
No. Staff Engaged	...	0.875	100	1.39	159
MAIN SEWERAGE					
Houses Served	...	980	100	1,216	124.1
No. Staff Engaged	...	4.18	100	4.15	99.13
HOUSES DRAINED TO CESSPOOL (included for comparative purposes)					
No. of Houses	...	1,155	100	1,179	102.1
CESSPOOL EMPTYING					
Loads Sewage Removed	...	824	100	843	102.3
No. Staff Engaged	...	2.4	100	2.36	98.33
REFUSE COLLECTION					
Houses Served	...	2,552	100	2,756	108
No. Staff Engaged	...	3.27	100	4.24	129.7

These services are staffed by an establishment of 11 men, plus a General Foreman whose time is not accounted for in the table above; the vehicles used in connection with the services consist of two Dennis Refuse Collectors (side loading), two Dennis Cesspool Emptiers, and a Morris Commercial light lorry.

SUMMARY OF VISITS BY SANITARY INSPECTOR

Particulars of visits are given below:—

Factories Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Food and Drugs Act:							
Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Licensed Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Other visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Housing Acts:							
Inspections and Interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	502
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	203
Public Health Acts:							
Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Complaints and Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Sewerage	...	...	...	...	...	...	713
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	352

Sanitary accommodation at Cafes, Inns, etc.	...	...	...	1
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	27
Slaughter of Animals Act	...	...	...	2
Rodent Control	...	...	...	124
Street Naming and Numbering	...	...	...	176
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	106
				—
Total	...	...	...	1,825

Six International Vaccination Certificates were countersigned.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

Details of registrations and licences in force, together with further particulars concerning milk, meat and other foods, are as follows:—

Milk and Dairies

Premises registered as a Dairy	...	...	...	...	5
Persons registered as Distributors	...	...	...	...	15
Designated Milk Licences:					
(a) Dealers' Licences:					
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	9
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	Nil
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	9
(b) Supplementary Licences:					
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	8
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	6
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	11

Slaughterhouses

Licensed Slaughterhouses (postponement notice in force)	...	...	...	1
Slaughterhouses in use by Ministry of Food	...	...	...	Nil
Licensed Slaughtermen	...	...	...	4

Ice Cream Premises

Premises registered:					
(a) Manufacture	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Storage	...	...	...	...	Nil
(c) Sale	...	...	...	...	28

Preserved Foods

(a) Sausages	...	...	...	...	4
(b) Other preserved food	...	...	...	...	1

Table of Food Premises by Type of Business

Bakery (no shop attached)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bakery (with shop attached)	...	...	...	...	...	4
Butcher	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cafe	...	...	...	...	...	11
Greengrocery	...	...	...	...	...	5
Grocery and General Stores	...	...	...	...	...	22
Office or Industrial Canteen	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hotel	...	...	...	...	...	4

Licensed Houses:

Beerhouse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Full Licence	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Off-licence only	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Mineral Water Factory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Poultry Killing and Dressing Establishment				...	...	...	...	1
Sausage Skin Preparation and Gut Cleaning				...	...	...	...	1

Food Unfit for Human Consumption

No special arrangements were necessary for disposal of unfit foodstuffs, and the small amount voluntarily surrendered (see below) was deposited at the refuse tip; foods capable of being salvaged for re-processing have been returned through trade channels in previous years, and this procedure would again be followed if suitable materials were involved. The quantity of unfit food dealt with is as follows:—

Sausages	12 lb.
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Milk

The Rural District was included in a Specified Area which became operative on April 1st, and in consequence the sale of ungraded milk has now been discontinued; the small number of producer retailers who still supplied ungraded milk made the necessary arrangements to obtain graded milk from wholesalers, and have been granted licences appropriate to the grades of bottled milk which they now supply. The designations permitted after October 1st, 1954, are "Tuberculin Tested," "Sterilised" and "Pasteurised."

Meat

The year has been notable for the discontinuation of war-time control of slaughtering; a consultation between traders and local authorities in East Herts indicated that so far as the area of Hertford Rural District was concerned, the majority of meat would be available either from the wholesale London market or by trade groups who would provide facilities for slaughtering outside the District.

Three butchers indicated that their pre-war slaughterhouses would not be required, and a fourth, whose slaughterhouse has been in operation from time to time for killing of self-suppliers' animals, stated his preference to retain his premises in operation. These premises, though suitable for dealing with the occasional self-suppliers' animal, were considered to fall short of modern requirements, and the occupier's application for a slaughterhouse licence has been postponed to permit the execution of specified works, which were well under way by the end of the year. In the meantime a small amount of slaughtering has been carried out, and all animals thus killed have been inspected without causing any appreciable increase in the volume of work dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector.

Slaughtermen

Three slaughtermen are licensed by the Council, and of this number, two are associated with the slaughterhouse above referred to.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936-1954

Improvement Grants

Approval was given to schemes for the improvement of houses in private ownership in accordance with the Housing Act, 1949, and the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954; the total number of houses involved was 18, and the amounts of Improvement Grants awarded by the Council totalled £5,264.

Substandard Properties

Housing Survey: the Council resolved to commence a housing survey of their district, parish by parish, and this survey has now commenced. The purpose of the survey is to secure the improvement of substandard properties, the execution of essential repairs, and the demolition of totally unfit properties. In view of the already heavy commitments and duties falling upon the existing staff, the Council authorised the appointment of a further additional Sanitary Inspector to carry out this survey. The information obtained in the course of the first part of this survey, which will deal with conditions in Datchworth, Stapleford and Bayford, will be applied to compile the Report asked for by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

No action was taken under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936 (properties repairable at reasonable expense) but reports were presented to the Council, in five cases, of houses considered incapable of repair at reasonable expense. In all five cases demolition orders were made by the Council under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936.

In a further two cases where it has been resolved in 1953 to make demolition orders, undertakings were accepted from the owners that the two properties concerned would not again be used for human habitation; these houses have in fact now been converted into pigsties.

Housing Progress

Tables showing the progress with new housing, and also action taken in respect of substandard properties (as specified in the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925) appear in the Statistical Section of this Combined Report.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Verminous Premises

Four flea-infested houses were referred to the Department, all arising from the verminous condition of one family who moved house in the year. Fleas spread from the vacated house to the occupied property adjoining, and again from the newly-occupied

house through the party wall into the next dwelling; the owners and occupiers were all co-operative and with the aid of a dust-gun loaned by the Council, gammexane powder was applied wherever necessary, with entirely satisfactory results. There were no cases of bed-bug infestation.

Infectious Diseases

The practice of terminal disinfection is not followed unless special circumstances are present, but during the year it has been unnecessary to carry out such disinfection. Steam disinfection facilities continue to be available at Western House, Ware, and have been taken advantage of by individuals in the case of certain non-infectious fatal illnesses; in such circumstances, the cost of disinfection, and transport where provided, is recharged by the Council.

Offensive Trades

In the absence of main drainage facilities in the Burnham Green area, the owners of the gut-cleaning factory have erected a 60-ft. steel chimney into which the boiler flue, and exhaust fumes from the manure digestion plant, are now discharged; the unpleasant conditions which formerly obtained have been much reduced, and it is not without interest to record that although some months elapsed between erection and commissioning of the new chimney, the previous flood of complaints by local residents ceased abruptly at the time the chimney became visible.

Caravans and Movable Dwellings

The sites referred to in the report of the previous year continue in operation, but it is evident that the sustained drive for provision of new houses has relieved the demand for residential caravan sites in the district; no problems have been experienced in maintaining existing sites in satisfactory condition.

Closet Conversion Scheme

Brief reference was made in the 1953 Annual Report to preparation of a scheme of closet conversion for the village of Bramfield; progress in 1954 was satisfactory, tenders being obtained, a contractor selected, and work put in hand so that by the end of the year the bulk of the constructional work has been completed.

This scheme involving 17 properties has provided useful experience of the operation of Section 47, Public Health Act, 1936, and is regarded as a pilot scheme upon which to base the larger task of securing closet conversions primarily in Datchworth, and later in remaining parishes, as main drainage becomes available.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent Control

Sewerage Systems

As in previous years, regular treatment of the Council's sewerage systems is undertaken to ensure location and destruction

of rats, in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. For some considerable period, trouble in the London Road area of Hertford Heath has been experienced, and during the year this was renewed to the extent that rats entered two blocks of four houses owned by the Council. The routes of entry to the houses were plain when soil drains were exposed and found to be seriously defective, and the other side of the problem was established later in the year, with the location of a serious leak from a public sewer into a ditch; the contractor in dealing with this discovered at the same time a broken fresh air inlet pipe in the thickness of an adjacent hedge, and when both defects had been rectified the rat infestation discontinued.

Private Properties

Reports of rat infestation at private properties are investigated by a sanitary inspector, advice being given upon the application of suitable methods of destruction and rat-proofing; the heavy continuing pressure from the direction of the Council's utility services upon the available manual staff has again made it necessary to restrict rat destruction work at private property to those cases where the occupier is incapable of taking effective action.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES among the different parishes

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Infective Jaundice
Aston ...	|||	—	—	—	—	—
Bayford ...	|||	7	—	—	—	—
Benington ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Bengeo Rural ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Bramfield ...	—	4	—	—	—	—
Brickendon Liberty ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Datchworth ...	4	—	—	—	—	—
Hertingsfordbury ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Little Amwell ...	—	2	—	—	—	—
Lt. Berkhampstead ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sacombe ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stapleford ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Tewin ...	—	11	—	—	—	—
Walkern ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Watton-at-Stone ...	—	2	—	—	—	—

**NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
during 1954**

Tuberculosis notifications are shown in a separate table at the beginning of this Combined District Report.

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING THE DIFFERENT MONTHS

WARE RURAL DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLIES

Water is derived from two boreholes, 450 ft. deep, at the Standon Pumping Station. The water is pumped into supply after chlorination and filtration, and is stored by means of a water tower at Old Hall Green.

The water continues to be of good quality and ample supply. The average quantity of water pumped throughout the year was 460,000 gallons per day. The supply was maintained without restriction or interruption throughout the year.

No cases of wells drying up were reported.

Quality

Bacteriological

Eight samples of water from the Ware R.D.C. supply derived from Standon were examined bacteriologically, and *B. Coli* were absent from 100 ml. in each case.

Chemical Analysis of Public Water Supply

Two samples were tested, one in April and the other in December. Both results show no evidence of pollution and the water is fit for drinking purposes. The water is hard, but the hardness is mainly "temporary" in nature, i.e. removable by boiling. Details of the chemical analysis of the sample taken on December 16th are given in the table which follows:—

Chemical Results in Parts per Million						Sample taken 16th December, 1954
Appearance	...	...	...	...	...	Bright, with very few mineral particles
Turbidity	...	...	...	...	...	Less than 3
Colour	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Odour	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Reaction pH	...	...	...	...	...	7.1
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	...	32
Electric Conductivity at 20° C.	...	...	...	...	...	550
Total solids, dried at 180° C.	...	...	...	...	...	370
Chlorine as Chloride	...	...	...	...	...	16
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	...	275
Hardness:						
Carbonate (Temporary)	...	...	...	...	...	275
Non-Carbonate (Permanent)	...	...	...	...	...	35
Total	...	...	...	...	...	310
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	...	2.0
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	...	Less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	...	0.000
Oxygen Absorbed	...	...	...	...	...	0.00
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	...	0.000
Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Metals	...	...	...	...	...	Iron: less than 0.03 Other metals absent

Distribution of Water Services

Dwelling houses supplied by public water mains:—

Parish	Number of Houses	Population (approx.)	Main direct to House	Main to Standpipes
Eastwick	67	160	67	—
Gilston	63	169	62	—
Great Amwell	635	2,425	598	10
Great Munden	117	442	85	17
Hunsdon	315	771	308	7
Little Munden	133	525	108	23
St. Margarets	53	189	53	—
Standon	872	2,792	802	40
Stanstead Abbotts ...	404	1,560	399	12
Thundridge	165	748	122	8
Ware Rural	229	1,074	180	9
Widford	135	467	88	38
Total	3,188	—	2,872	164

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewers from Standon and Puckeridge gravitate to a pumping station in Paper Mill Lane, Standon, from which the sewage is raised to a disposal works south of the village.

High Cross and Wadesmill, Great Amwell, St. Margarets and Stanstead Abbotts are drained to pumping stations from which the sewage is raised to join the Ware Urban District Council sewers.

Part of the village of Hertford Heath is in the Great Amwell Parish and is seweraged by agreement with Hertford Rural District Council, to Hertford Corporation sewers.

Haileybury College, Hailey Lane and Springle Lane drain by agreement into the Hoddesdon Urban District sewers.

There is a small sewerage system at Eastwick. The effluent discharges into a septic tank which was originally installed to take the drainage from the new Council houses.

The village of Hunsdon is seweraged to a disposal works near Bonningtons, and most of the properties in the village are now connected to the sewer.

A scheme to drain Widford and Wareside in conjunction with Much Hadham in the Braughing Rural District, submitted to the Ministry in 1946, continued to remain in abeyance.

The Dane End scheme, drawn up in 1950, has now been approved by the Ministry. The scheme, which entails construction of a disposal works at the south end of the village, will provide sewage disposal facilities for the Dane End district of Little Munden Parish.

Ninety-eight properties were connected to the sewer during the year.

Cesspools**PUBLIC CLEANSING**

The Council have a cesspool emptying service which operated during the year as follows:—

Those private houses that are situated outside certain areas in proximity to the Council's sewers and defined on a Resolution Map, were emptied twice a year free of charge.

The remainder which are within the above defined areas were only emptied by request at a scale of charges fixed by the Council.

Pails

A scheme is in operation whereby those private houses within an area in proximity to the sewers (as defined above) were charged 15s. per quarter for emptying one pail twice a week.

This scheme continues to encourage property owners to convert their pail closets to W.C.s.

All other pails to domestic premises are emptied twice weekly free of charge.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Refuse is collected weekly throughout the district, two 10 cu. yd. Commer vehicles being used. The amount collected per week is between 40 and 50 tons. The bulk of the refuse has increased considerably during recent years. This may be due partly to better living standards following the easing of food rationing restrictions so that the need for utilising every scrap of food has gone, the greater availability of tinned and packaged food products, and also the fact that no salvage scheme for paper or scrap metals is in operation.

There are two tips, one at Standon which is practically full and Wiggins' gravel pit at Great Amwell, which has a capacity equivalent to about two years' refuse.

The Amwell tip is controlled, and a mechanical (Chaseside) shovel is used for spreading and consolidating soil.

Further tipping space has been obtained at Downfield Farm, Westmill, which will satisfy the Council's needs for some years to come.

PARTICULARS OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S VISITS during the year 1954

Inspections

Housing	...	...	228	Total brought forward	...	728
Complaints	...	...	70	Bakehouses	...	14
Drainage	...	...	126	Ice Cream Premises	...	22
Water Supply	...	...	79	Knackers Yard	...	12
Refuse Tips	...	...	92	Slaughterhouses	...	349
Caravans	...	...	43	Cowsheds and Dairies	...	35
Schools	...	...	12	Other Food Premises	...	130
Factories	...	...	52	Rats and Mice	...	105
Infectious Diseases	...	...	26	Miscellaneous	...	12
Total carried forward			728	Total	...	1,407

Number of Informal Notices served 36

„ „ Statutory Notices served 12

HOUSING ACTS 1936 TO 1954

Housing Progress

Tables showing the progress with new housing, and also action taken in respect of substandard properties (as specified in the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925) appear in the statistical section of this Combined Report.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Ice Cream Premises

There are 35 premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale of ice cream.

Two new premises were registered during the year and this and the other premises were inspected regularly to ensure an adequate standard of cleanliness.

Slaughtering and Meat Inspection

The de-rationing of meat at the end of June has meant that slaughtering has been recommenced in this district after a break of 15 years.

Before the late war there were 14 registered slaughterhouses. Many had fallen into disrepair or been altered for other purposes during the war years. When the decontrol of slaughtering was announced, five applications were received to have slaughterhouses licensed. The five slaughterhouses were inspected and the Council decided to refuse the applications in two cases as they considered the premises no longer suitable; and to give notice of necessary works to bring the slaughterhouses up to standard in the other three cases.

Two slaughterhouses have now been brought up to standard; one licensed for five years. The third had not yet been improved or licensed by the end of the year.

The following table sets out the number of animals inspected and the amount of condemnations from the two slaughterhouses which have been in operation since 1st July, 1954:—

Type of Animal	No. Inspected	No. Affected with T.B.	No. Affected with other Diseases	Weight Condemned	
				T.B. lb.	Other Diseases lb.
Cows	31	8	2	1,453	26
Calves	101	—	2	—	16
Bullocks and Heifers	582	36	57	1,175	1,120½
Sheep	1,218	—	8	—	102
Pigs	791	6	14	31	182
Totals	2,723	50	83	2,659	1,446½

Other Foods Condemned

Canned Foodstuffs

Fruit	24 tins	60 lb.
Beef and Ham	1 tin	3 ,,
					— 63 ,, —

Meat and Meat Products

Beef Sausage	33 lb.
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Total weight of all foods condemned:—

1 ton 17 cwt. 60½ lb.

Food Premises

In addition to two slaughterhouses the following Food Premises, which number as shown, were inspected during the year:—

Bakehouses ...	...	3	Grocers' Shops	...	28
Butchers' Shops	...	11	Cafes	...	7
Fishmongers	...	3			

Milk and Dairies

The Council are responsible for the registration of four dairies under the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949. Supplementary licences to retail designated milks in this district were granted to seven retailers. A large proportion of the milk consumed in this district is supplied from dairies in other districts, namely Ware Urban, Hoddesdon, Bishop's Stortford, and Enfield.

Biological Sampling

One sample of milk positive to the tubercle bacillus was notified this year. Informal steps were taken to ensure that milk from the affected herd was pasteurised before resale.

A notice served under Section 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, during December, 1953, in respect of a herd of cows yielding tuberculous milk, required that all milk from that herd should be heat treated (Pasteurised) before sale for human consumption. The notice was removed in February, 1954, when the herd concerned was certified as being free from infection.

On April 1st, 1954, the Ware Rural District was included in a designated area comprising 15 districts in North and East Hertfordshire. From that date no undesignated milk has been sold in the District. The only designations permitted since October 1st, 1954, are "Tuberculin Tested," "Sterilised" and "Pasteurised."

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent Control

Rodent control under the above Act is in full operation in this district. The Council employ a part-time operator who is now principally engaged on this work.

The table below sets out the action taken during the year:—

	Type of Property					Total
	Council's Property	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	Business Premises		
Number of properties inspected	9	506	7	40		553
Number found to be infested by rats ...	7	142	3	5		157
Number seriously infested by mice ...	2	4	—	—		6
Number of properties treated for infestations	9	142	1	5		156
Number of block control schemes carried out	—	12	—	—		12

DISTRIBUTION OF THE NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES among the different parishes

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Poliomyelitis	Measles	Acute Pneumonia	Meningitis	Food Poisoning	Jaundice	Malaria
Eastwick	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gilston	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Amwell	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Munden	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hunsdon ...	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Little Munden ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Margarets ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Standon ...	1	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—
Stanstead Abbotts ...	1	2	—	11	—	—	—	—	—
Thundridge ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ware Rural ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Widford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

The Malaria occurred in a man age 20 years, and is thought to have been contracted abroad.

Eleven cases of Measles at a residential nursery were isolated in hospital.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
during 1954

DISEASE	TOTAL	AGE GROUP (in Years)						Age not Known	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 65			
Scarlet Fever ...	7	—	1	5	1	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	6	1	3	—	—	2	—	—	1	—
Poliomyelitis (Acute):										
Paralytic	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	12	2	9	—	—	1	—	—	11	—
Diphtheria	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	8	—	—	5	—	3	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis (Acute):										
Infective	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-Infectious	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	5	—	2	1	1	—	1	—	1	—
Malaria	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis notifications are shown in a separate table at the beginning of this Combined District Report.

**INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE
 DURING THE DIFFERENT MONTHS**

DISEASE	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Scarlet Fever ...	1	2	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	5	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Jaundice... ...	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

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